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# THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN 1979-1989

## THE SOVIET EMPIRE AT HIGH TIDE

by David C. Isby
Artist Plates by Ron Volstad

CONCORD
PUBLICATIONS COMPANY

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### Front Cover

This Kabul regime T-55A broke down as it was retreating. A wooden 100mm ammunition box has been propped against its tread. The 12.7mmDShKM heavy machine gun normally mounted on top of the turret has been stowed to keep dust out of it. It is only re-mounted when combat is anticipated. The dust of southern Afghanistan is particularly fine and destructive. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

### Back Cover [Left]

Ahmad Shah Massoud inspects a captured Soviet 5.45mm AK-74 assault rifle with an under-barrel 40mm BG-15 grenade launcher. (photo: Mohammed Shuaib)

### [Upper Right]

A Kabul regime BRDM-2 command armored car flying the white flag of surrender, Kandahar province, 1988: a scene that was to be little repeated in the next year as the Afghan resistance's political weakness and the expectations of imminent victory or a political settlement (no one wanted to be among the last killed) limited the chances for effective offensive operations. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

### [Lower Right]

A captured ZiL-131 truck pressed into service by the Afghan resistance. Soviet-made trucks are less reliable than the western-made trucks normally used by the Afghan resistance. (photo: David Isby)

# INTRODUCTION

The war in Afghanistan was the high water mark of the Soviet Empire. In 1978, when the war started, the Soviet Union was at the height of its Brezhnev-era confidence that the global "correlation of forces" had irrevocably shifted in its favor, that the Soviet Empire - both in eastern Europe and inside their own borders - was secure, and that the West was split and in decline. When the Soviets invaded in 1979, the Soviet Army, the world's largest mechanized force, seemed likely to make short work of the ragged and lightly armed guerillas coming from one of the world's poorest countries.

When the Soviet Army finally pulled its combat troops from Afghanistan on 15 February, 1989 - leaving Moscow's war to be carried on by the Communist regime they installed in Kabul - it was in a different world. The Gorbachev era brought not confidence but questioning, a result of economic and political setbacks. The Empire was starting to break down; within a year of the withdrawal all of eastern Europe had changed government, unrest spread throughout the Soviet Union and Lithuania moved towards secession, despite Gorbachev's steps towards democracy. The Afghans certainly had a part in this, for just as defeat in the Crimean and Russo-Japanese wars has a great impact on Tsarist Russia, so the failure of the Soviets to gain military victory over the Afghans appears to have had an equivalent impact on the Soviet Union of the 1990s, regardless of the ultimate outcome of the war still raging in Afghanistan.

While both the Soviets and the Tsarist Russians had long been interested in Afghanistan, the war started when, on 24 April, 1978, the Afghan chief of state, Mohammed Daoud was overthrown and, along with his entire family, executed in a putsch by the Communist People' Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in the capital of Kabul, who renamed the country the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA). The PDPA, though bitterly divided, was supported by the Soviet Union.

The PDPA policy of implementing a Stalinist-style regime soon led to armed resistance throughout Afghanistan breaking into open warfare in Herat on 21 March, 1979. This led to Soviet helicopters being sent in to support a now weakening Communist regime faced with heavy fighting.

In Moscow, the situation in the Soviet Union's newest satellite started to look increasingly grim and the decision was made to invade.Paratroopers 105th Guards Airborne Division had started to fly into Kabul airport in mid-December, joining Soviet Air Force units already there. On 27 December, 1979, the blow fell. Two motorized rifle divisions moved across the border. The paratroopers seized Kabul and the Communist head of state was promptly executed by his erstwhile allies, replaced by another Communist (from a different faction) Babrak Karmal. The invasion had been an operational success, and the Soviets apparently hoped that, as in Hungary in 1956 or Czechoslovakia in 1968 replacing one Communist ruler with another Communist, plus the provision of an army of occupation, would bring tranquility. But the Kabul regime's military started deserting or taking arms against the Soviets. The Soviets would have to do the fighting themselves.

Afghanistan now saw the largest national rising of the Twentieth Century, which the Afghans, devout Moslems, saw as a *jihad*, or holy war, against an infidel invader. Ouposts were attacked and convoys ambushed throughout the country, as the Afghans intensified their guerrilla war. In Kabul, 21 February saw an anti-Soviet uprising. The DRA Army refused to fire and the Soviets moved in to machinegun rioters, leading to the spread of mutinies.

The Soviets launched a series of large-scale ground sweeps conducted by mechanized combined arms forces, but without much skill. The systematic destruction of agriculture near Kabul started in June. Depopulation became a major Soviet goal. If, as Mao Tse-Tung wrote, the guerrilla must move amongst the people as a fish swims in the sea, the Soviets started to drain the ocean, using firepower to force the civilian populations to Pakistan, Iran, or urban areas. In response to condemnation of the invasion by the United Nations General Assembly, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Organization of Islamic Nations, the Soviets started the diplomatic activity that would continue throughout the war.

The deep divisions between the Afghan resistance also soon became apparent, reflecting political, ethnic, and religious differences. The seven major Afghan resistance parties were installed in Peshawar, Pakistan, attempted to organize a unified front with had little real success. Foreign aid to the Afghan resistance started to flow through Pakistan. Pakistan found itself confronted not only with a security dilemma, but with a huge cross-border flow of refugees.

In 1981 the Soviets emphasized, instead of sweeps, smaller operations. Air bombardment started to become more regular and intense, intended to produce widespread de-population and destruction of agriculture. In an attempt to consolidate Communist political power, the "non-party" National Fatherland Front was inaugurated by Karmal.

In 1982, with the Kabul regime army of limited usefulness in offensive combat, the Soviets did more of the fighting. They reverted to large scale ground sweeps, combined with helicopter-mobile operations to encircle resistance strongholds. The Panjshir V (April-May) and Panjshir VI (September) offensives were two of the biggest battles of the war to date. The Panjshir Valley was the stronghold of Ahmad Shah Massoud, a young Afghan resistance leader who had the most effective forces in the country. The Soviets failed to defeat him, and offered him a cease-fire in 1983-4. Indirect talks towards a peace settlement were opened in Geneva. Starting in late 1982, but becoming apparent in 1983, the Soviets adopted an "air war" approach to the war, with extensive bombing of villages to depopulate vital areas, combined with heliborne operations and ground sweeps. In 1984, the Soviets continued their "air war" strategy, and, both on the battlefield and politically, started to wage the war with more intensity. On the battlefield, 1984 saw new, more aggressive tactics and the deployment of more special operations forces. The Panjshir VII offensive, aimed at desolating the valley, was one of the biggest battles of the war. They failed to capture Massoud. Other multi-division offensives were launched using heavy air support. Despite Soviet offensives, the guerrillas continued to strike near Kabul, using heavier weapons as outside aid increased.

1985 opened with Resistance attacks on Kabul and as a result, the defenses were strengthened, a move that brought relative quiet inside the capital itself. In 1985, the general Soviet air war approach continued, with artillery and rocket launchers being using to a greater extent to achieve de-population through firepower. This was to a large extent mandated by the continued weakness of DRA forces throughout the year. The only real improvement could be seen in KHAD, the DRA secret police and a *defacto* arm of the KGB. An increasing emphasis on interdiction was seen throughout 1985. Outside aid, limited throughout much of the war, was now coming inside in significant numbers, especially weapons such as 107mm rockets and SA-7s. Because of the impact of these weapons, the Soviets had to try and disrupt supplies coming in from Pakistan, as The Resistance had used the increased supply of weaponry and improved capability. They were able to stand against Soviet forces in the border province of Paktia.

The winter of 1985-86 was marked by a Soviet efforts to instigate a trans-border raising of Pathan tribes. The Soviets were continuing their interdiction efforts of 1985 but were trying to create the appearance of a Kabul regime independent operational capability. Large Communist forces advanced to the Pakistani border as part of a major offensive that destroyed Zhawar, but it proved a pyrhic victory. 1986 saw the high water mark of Soviet special forces operations. In the north, the Soviets made gains against the resistance and in economically tying the region to the Soviet Union.

Politically, the Gorbachev era started to affect Afghanistan, with the fall of Babrak Karmal and the emergence of Najibullah were among the attempts to revitalize Soviet political strategy. After Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech in June, 1986 and the ambiguous treatment of Afghanistan at that year's Party Congress in Moscow, the possibility of a real change in Soviet Afghan policy was raised for the first time.

The Afghan resistance fought on throughout the country. Ahmad Shah Massoud expanded his organization and forces in the north. The US-made heat-seeking man-portable Stinger surface-to-air missiles was supplied to the Afghan resistance in 1986, heralding a significant change in the way the war was fought. By the end of the year, aircraft losses were mounting quickly.

In 1987, the Soviets looked more to political rather than military forces to fight the war. In December, a new Communist constitution changed the regime's name to simply the Republic of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the war became a major impediment to improved relations between the Soviets and the west; the U.N. General Assembly vote against the Soviet war being higher than ever before, with 124 nations in favor. Soviet pressure on Pakistan was increased mainly with the aim of cutting aid to the Resistance. In 1987, throughout Pakistan, the Soviets mounted the most substantial campaign of state-supported terrorism in the world. The spring and early summer of 1987 brought the most serious Communist battlefield defeats since 1979. Following this, the Soviets withdrew many of their more isolated battalion and smaller sized positions. Soviet air losses peaked in early summer, then rapidly declined as airpower was used more cautiously. Artillery was emphasized instead of airstrikes.

Throughout 1987-88 the Soviets restated "the political decision to withdraw has been made", and they less active on the battlefield than in 1986. While the Resistance was able to undertake offensives and was obviously better equipped and organized in 1987-88, they still were politically weak and the deep divisions remained. The Geneva accords, signed in 1988, mandated the withdrawal of Soviet combat troops. Throughout 1988, the Soviets started pulling out troops. The Kabul regime abandoned some areas, such as the Kunar valley and most of Paktia, but hung on. The Afghan resistance received small numbers of improved weapons systems such as secure radios, MILAN antitank guided missiles, and 120mm mortars.

The war did not stop with the Soviet withdrawal. They continued to wage the war through a massive resupply effort - including over 1,000 Scud surface-to-surface missiles - and the transfer of many in-place Soviet weapons. The Soviets continued to hope that if Kabul could hold out, the Afghan resistance's foreign supporters would lose patience. The Afghan resistance, their political divisions exacerbated by moves aimed towards post-war political advantage, planned on a quick victory soon after the Soviet withdrawal, taking the city of Jalalabad on the Peshawar-Kabul highway. After some initial success, the offensive was defeated. Despite four attempted coups against it in the year after the Soviet withdrawal, Najibullah and the Kabul regime has managed to hang on, taking advantage of Afghan resistance political divisions and massive Soviet support.

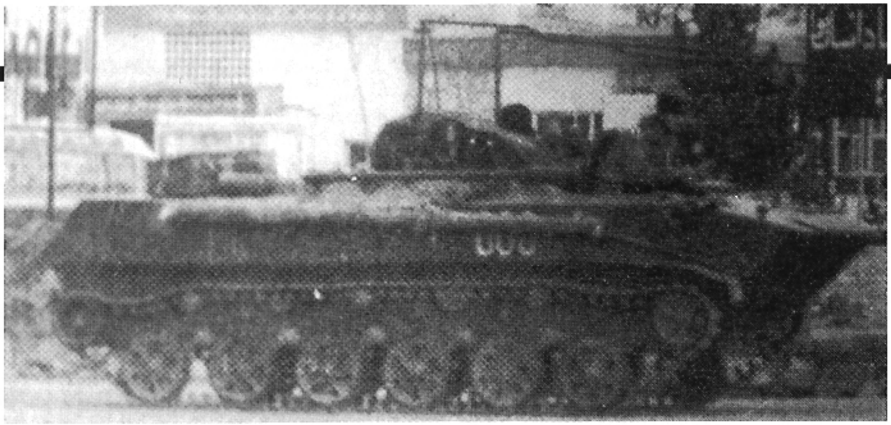
# INVASION:

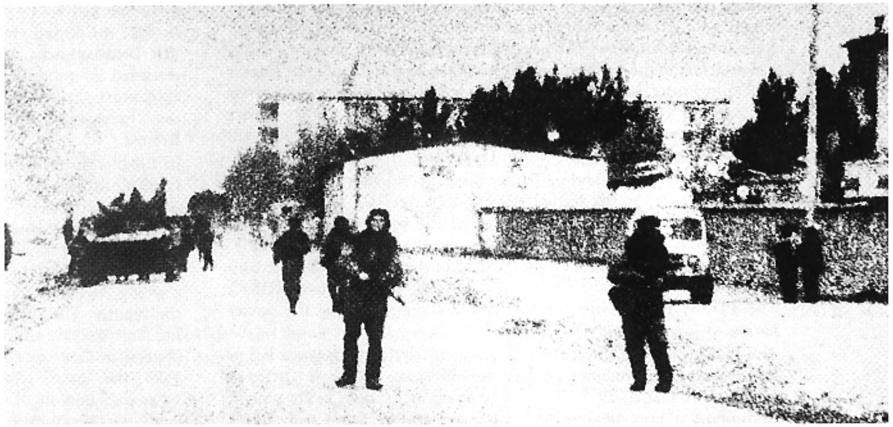
▶ Turretless BMD-2U airborne command vehicle in Kabul, December, 1979.

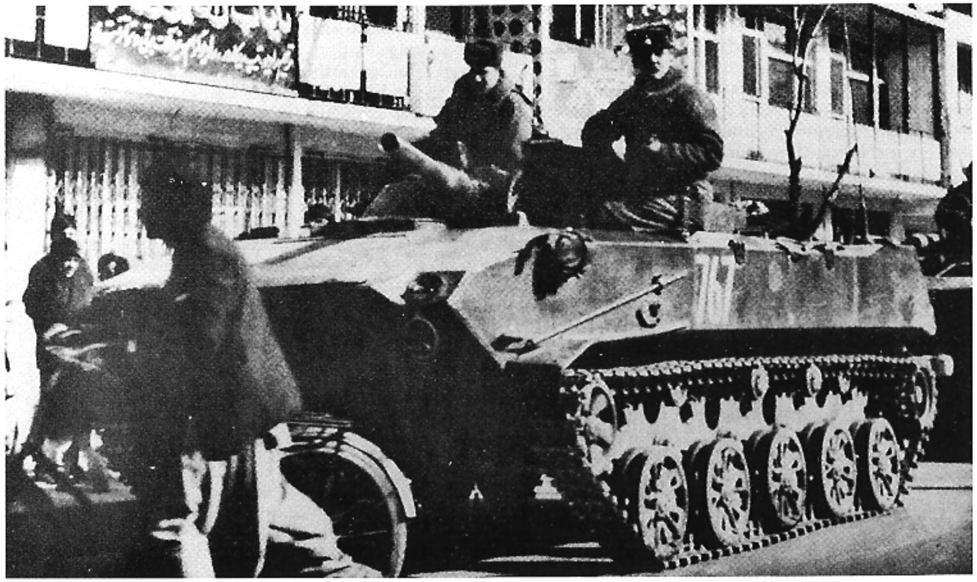
▲ Soviet paratroopers in winter uniforms, supported by a BMD-1 airborne infantry fighting vehicle, man a checkpoint near Kabul, 27 December, 1979. (photo: USIA)

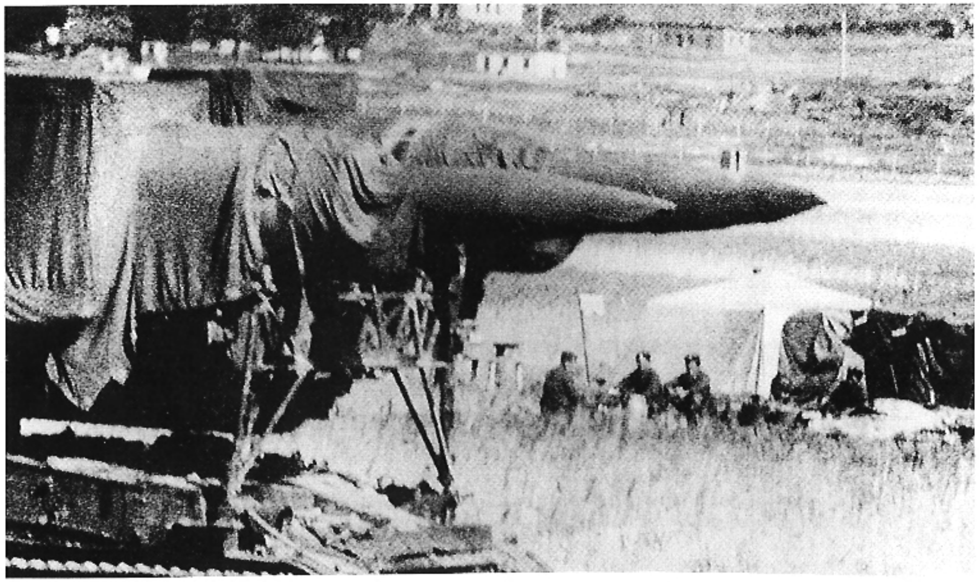
▼ "767", an overall green BMD-1 of the Soviet Airborne Forces, was part of the December, 1979 invasion force in Kabul. (photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

▼▶ Soviet SA-4 Ganef SP SAM launcher at Kabul International Airport in 1980. The Soviet 40th Army SAM Brigade, equipped with these weapons, was withdrawn from Afghanistan in 1980. (photo: USIA)



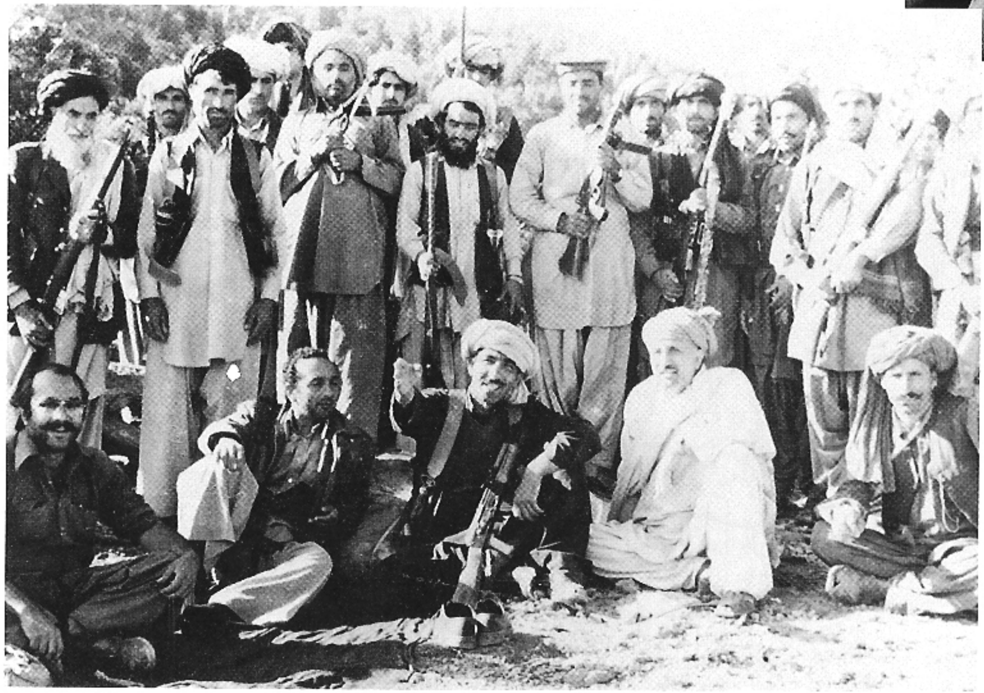




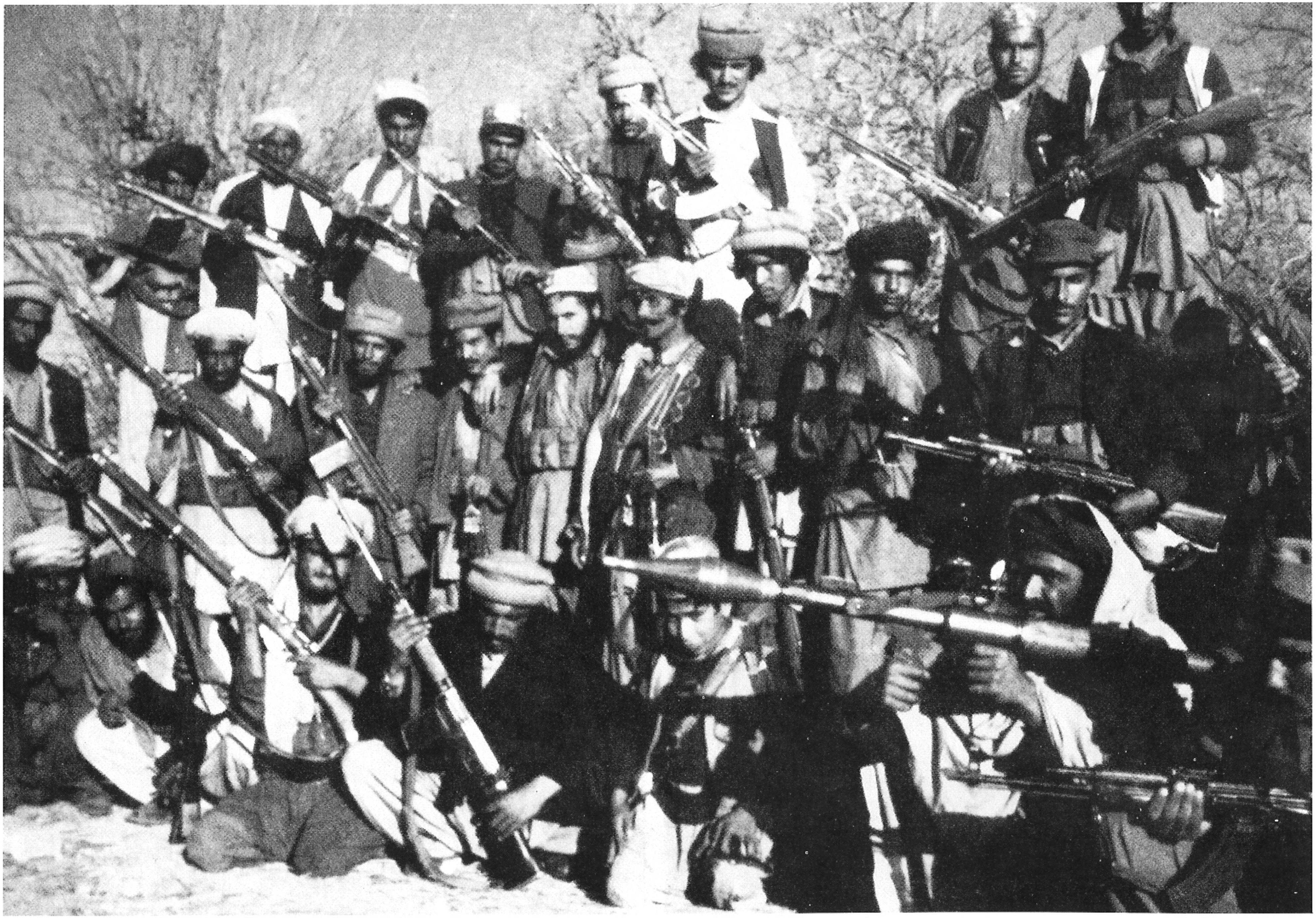


# RESISTANCE:

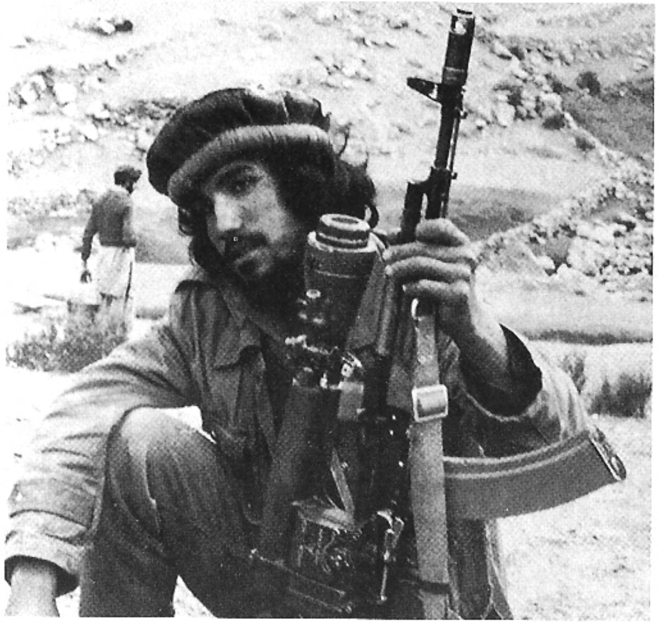
Armed with only a bolt-action rifle, this Afghan is typical of the men who fought for ten years against the world's largest mechanized army. (photo: Committee for a Free Afghanistan)



A group of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan guerrillas in Paktia province early in the war, when their weapon included few Kalashnikovs and instead .303 Lee Enfield bolt-action rifles, hunting rifles, and, here, a few Sten guns. (photo: Syed Hassan Gailani, who appears sitting, second from left)



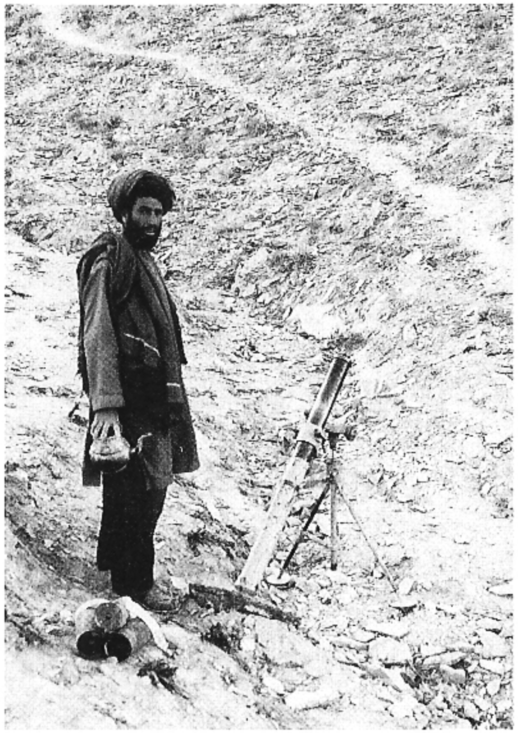
A resistance group early in the war. Among the weapons displayed are a few Indian-made L1A1 7.62mm rifles, captured by Pakistan in 1965 and issued to the Afghan resistance. Ammunition shortage led to their soon leaving service. (photo: Committee for a Free Afghanistan)

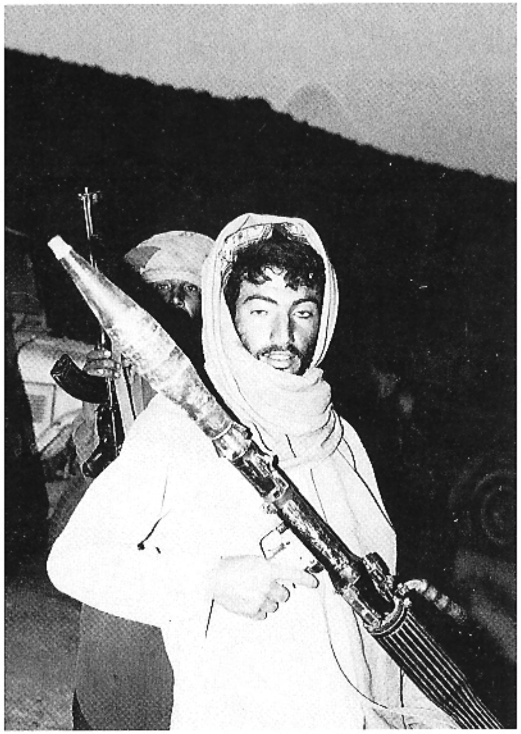


◀ Lightly equipped, a group of Afghanistan guerrillas move out. (photo: David Isby)

◀▲The Soviets applied high technology weaponry - such as the image intensification sight on this AK-74 rifle - to even infantry cambat in Afghanistan. (photo: Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan)

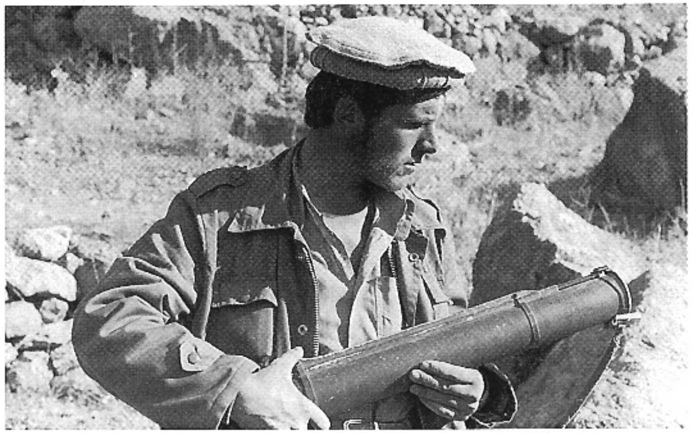
▲ Afghans at prayers. Islam permeates Afghan society and has been a powerful motivating and unifying force for the Afghan resistance. Despite the deep divisions within the Afghan resistance, there have been no large-scale defections to the side of Kabul, due in large part to this Islamic motivation. (photo: David Isby)



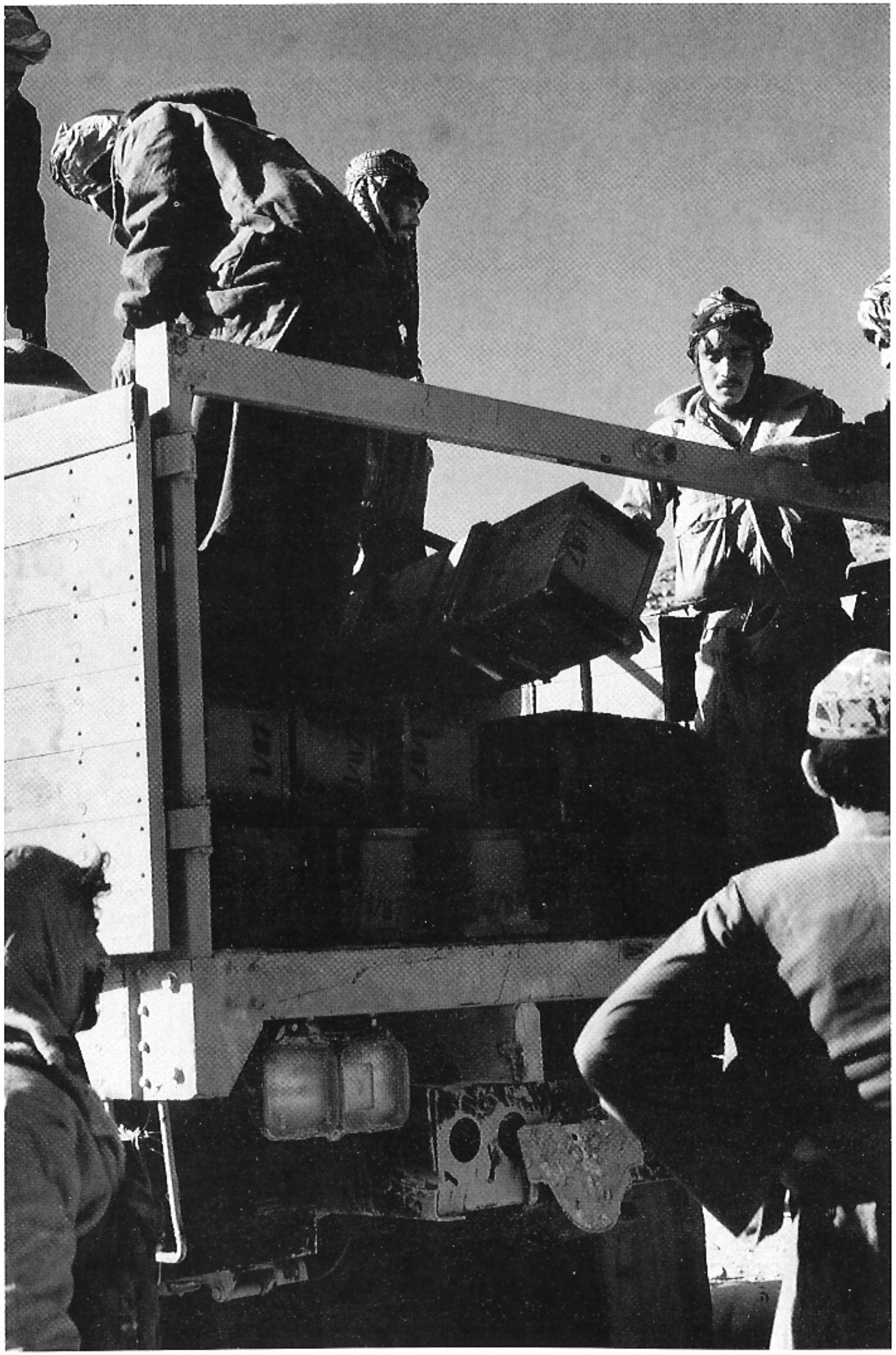


▶ Afghan with an improved Chinese-made round loaded in his RPG-7 rocket launcher. (photo: David Isby)

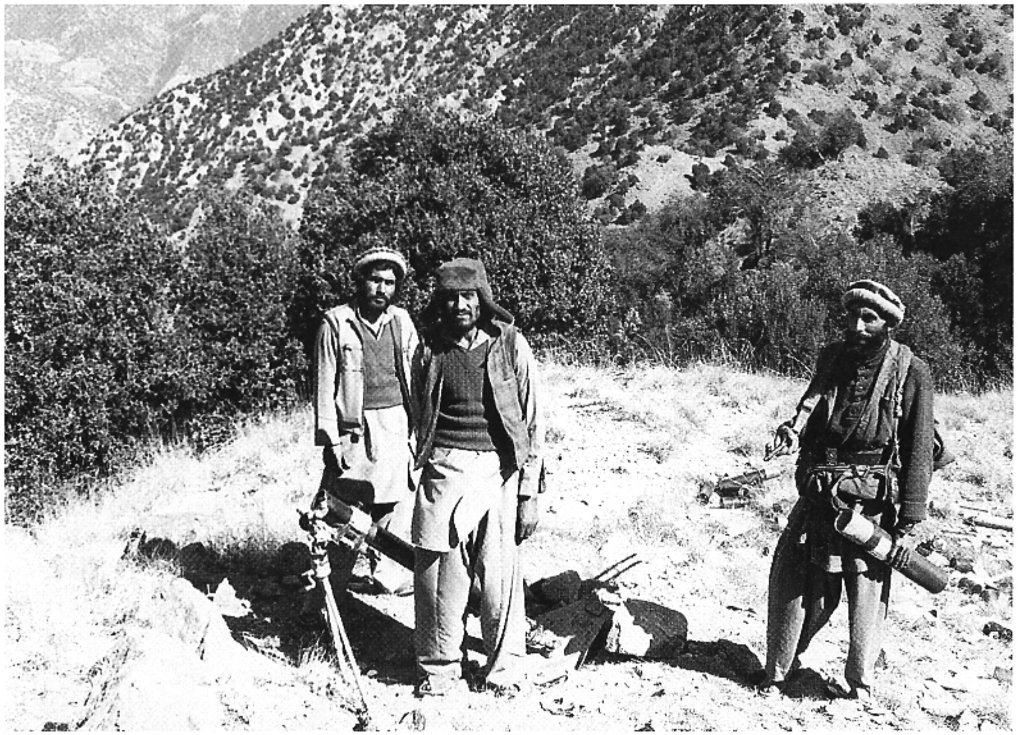
◀ A single 82mm M-1937 Soviet-designed mortar in a hasty firing position on the reverse slope of a hill. The gunner, his three-round fire mission complete, is about to brew some tea. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



Mohammed Shuaib, combat photographer and assistant director of press relations for the Afghan resistance party Jamiat-e-Islami with a captured Soviet RPG-18 single-shot light anti-tank weapon. (photo: Mohammed Shuaib)



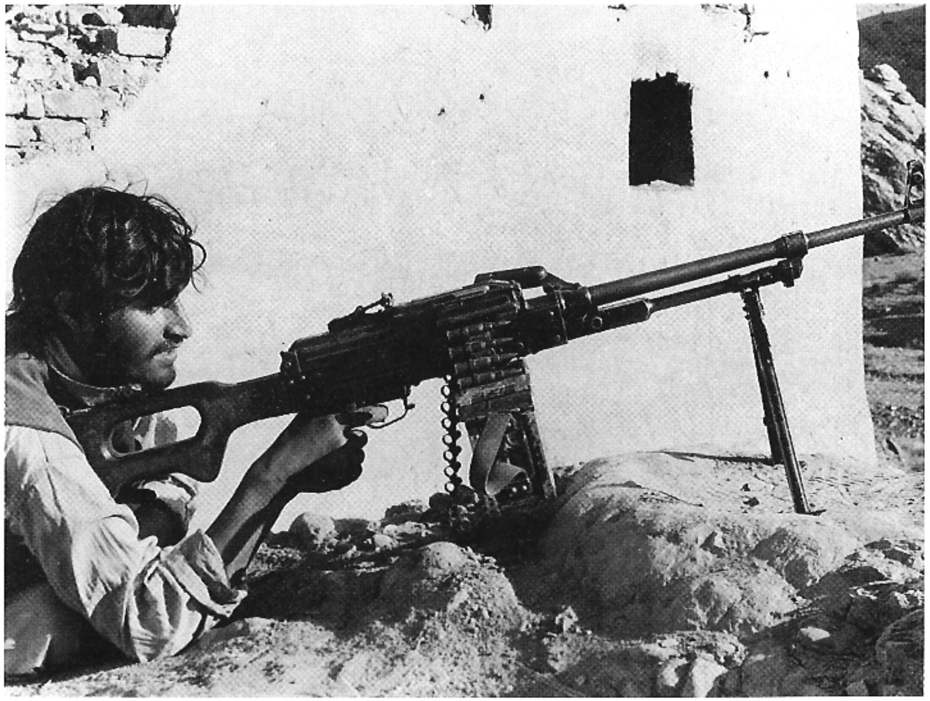
Afghan resistance logistics. Near Kandahar, a supply truck is loaded with crated rockets. (photo: Otilie English)

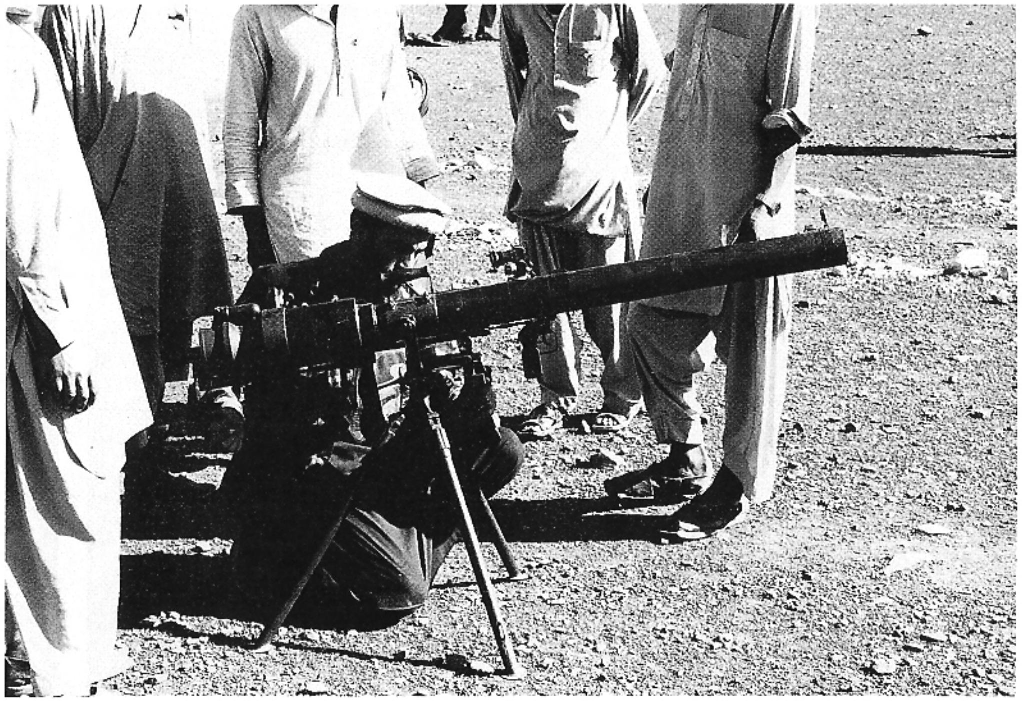


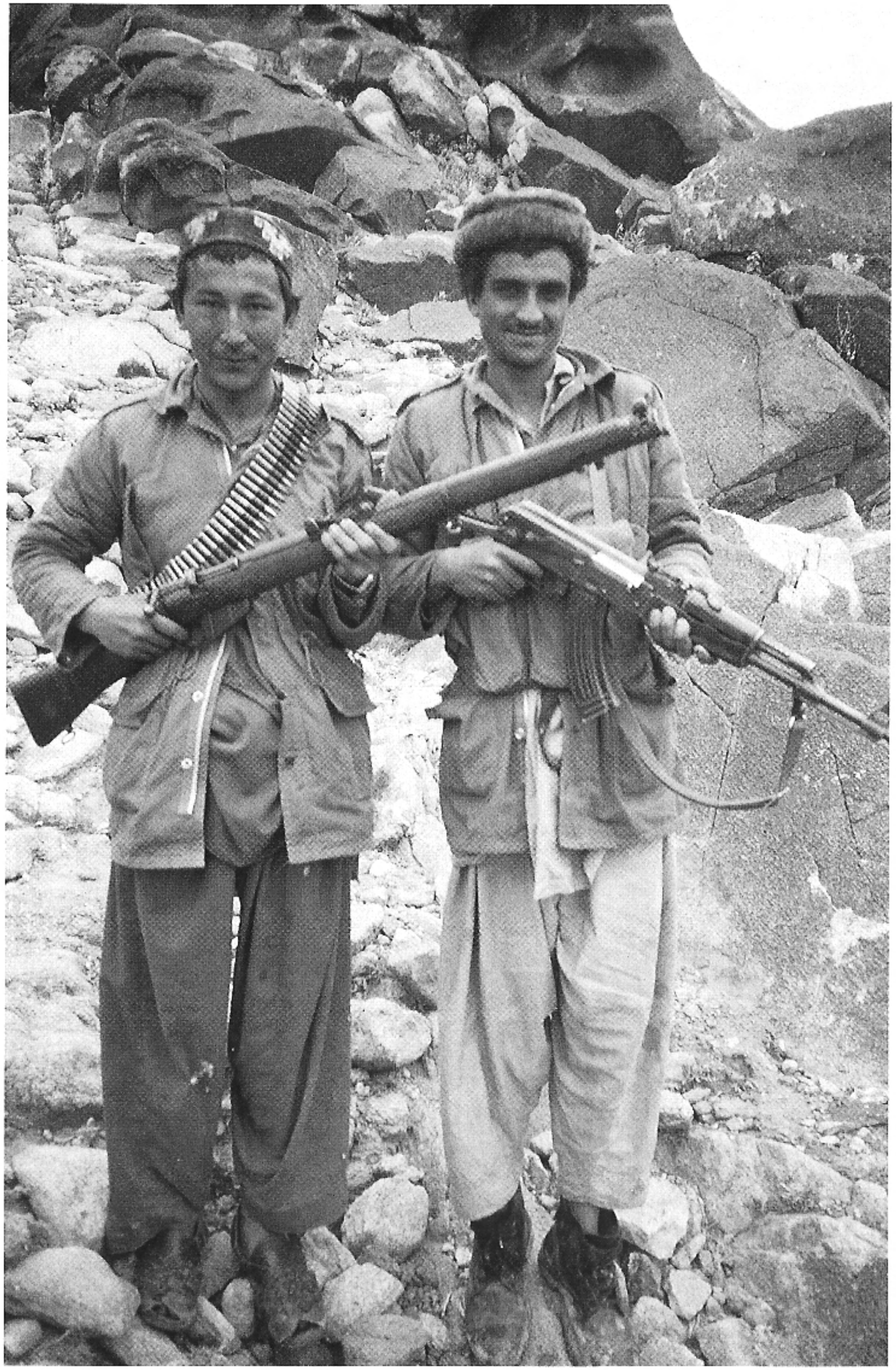
◀ Afghan resistance 82mm M-1937 Soviet-designed mortar. This is a Chinese-built version.

▼ A Chinese-made 75mm recoilless rifle is mounted on its tripod. Along with similar 82mm Czechoslovak-designed weapons, it has been extensively used by the Afghan resistance against both vehicles and fortifications. The standards of skill in using some weapons, however, vary widely. While many are highly proficient, other Afghans remain poorly trained, even after a decade of war. (photo: David Isby)

▼◀ Afghan with a captured Soviet 7.62mm PKM general purpose machine gun. (photo: Ben Pendleton via the Committee for a Free Afghanistan)

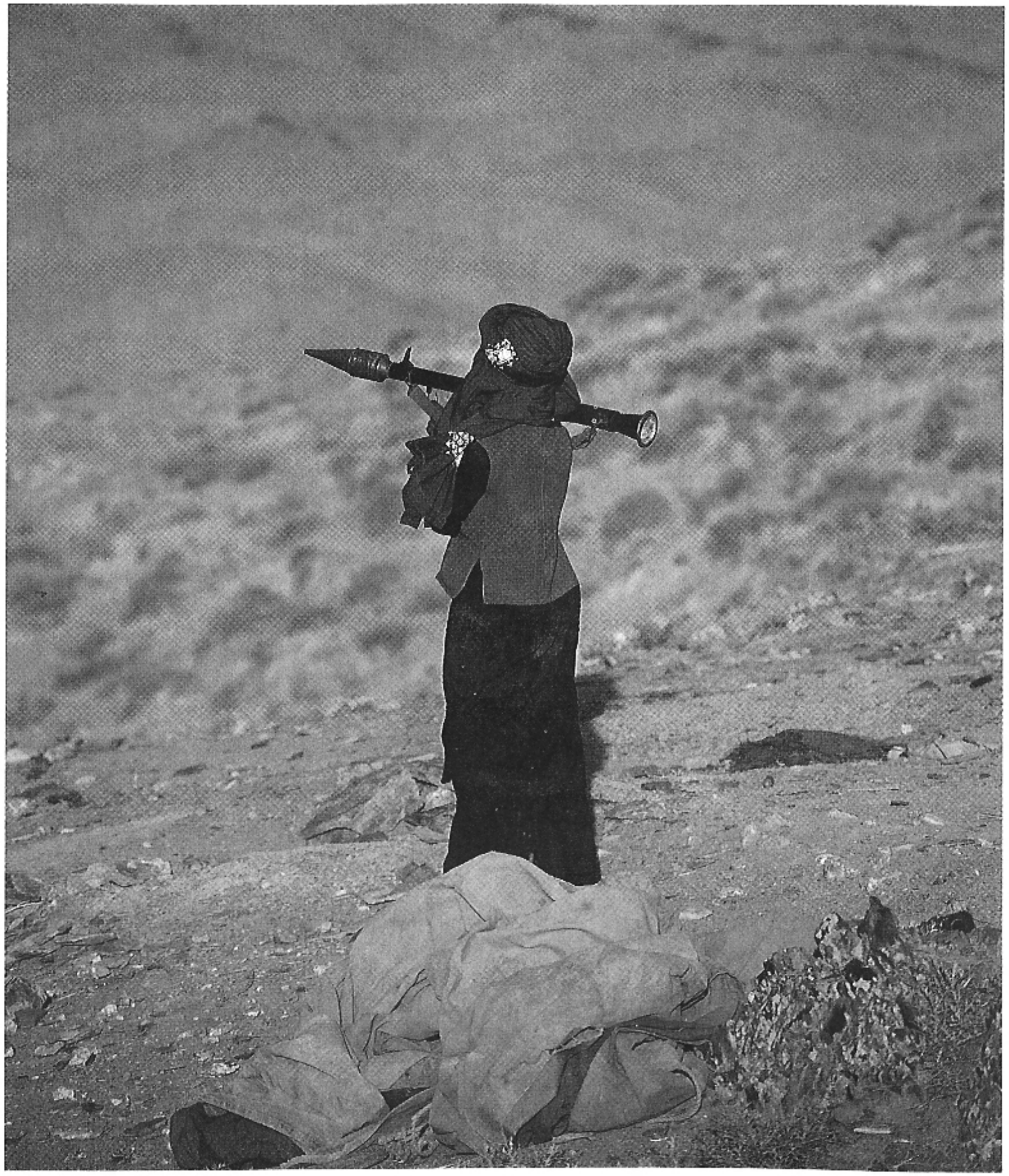






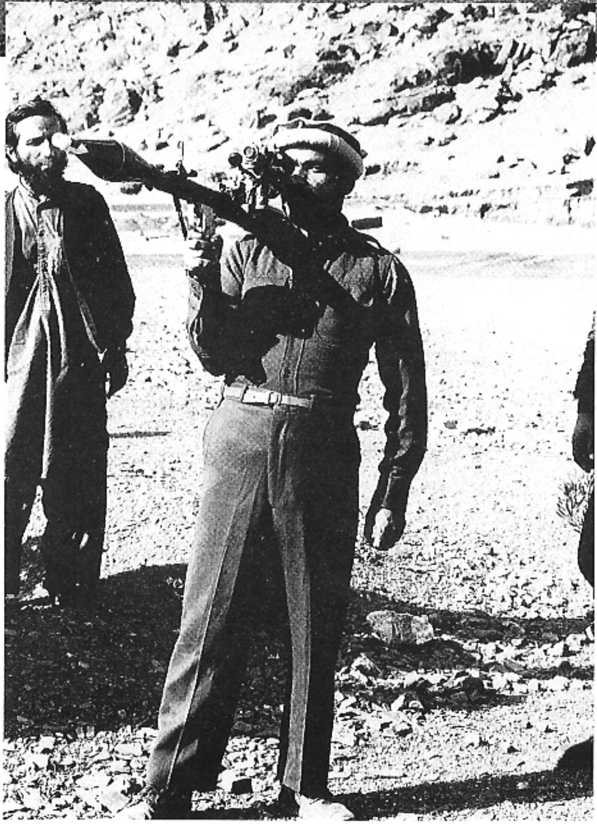
◀ Typical Afghan guerrillas. Their field jackets are locally-made copies of the U.S. M65. Their footwear, though inadequate for stony mountains, is preferred to locally-made boots, which are often crippling. (photo: David Isby)

▼ Afghan resistance RPG-7 gunner in firing position. (photo: David Isby)



In southern Afghanistan, greater use was made of a wide variety of larger trucks after the introduction of the Stinger SAM reduced the helicopters that inserted special operations forces along supply routes to stage ambushes and reduced the accuracy of air attacks. (photo: Otilie English)

The human cost of the war in Afghanistan has been higher: over one million Afghans have been killed. Dr. Khalid Akram, M.D., treats children in Paktia in 1984. (photo: Dr. Khalid Akram)

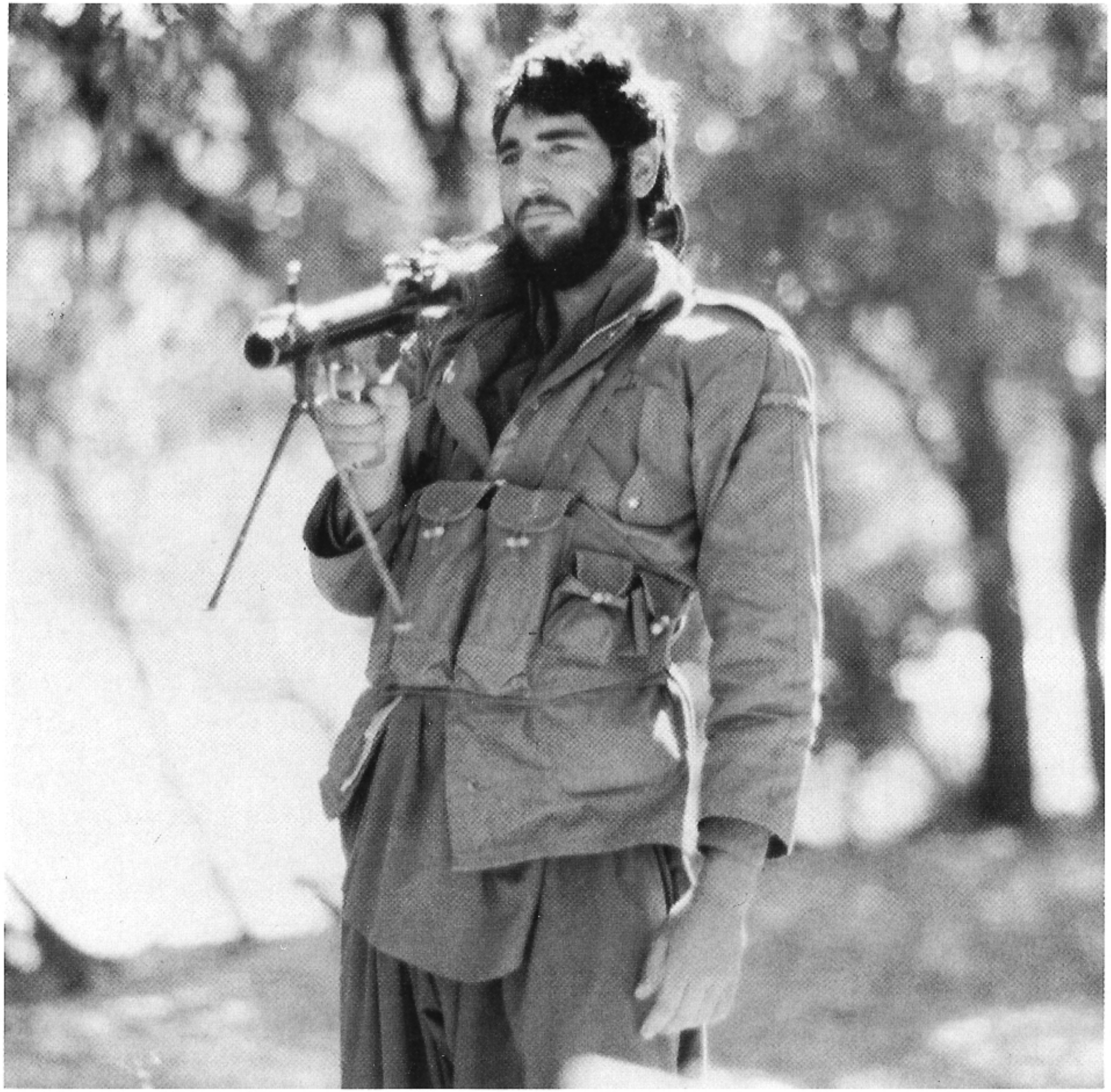


A uniformed mujahed, armed with a Chinese-made version of the standard RPG-7. (photo: David Isby)

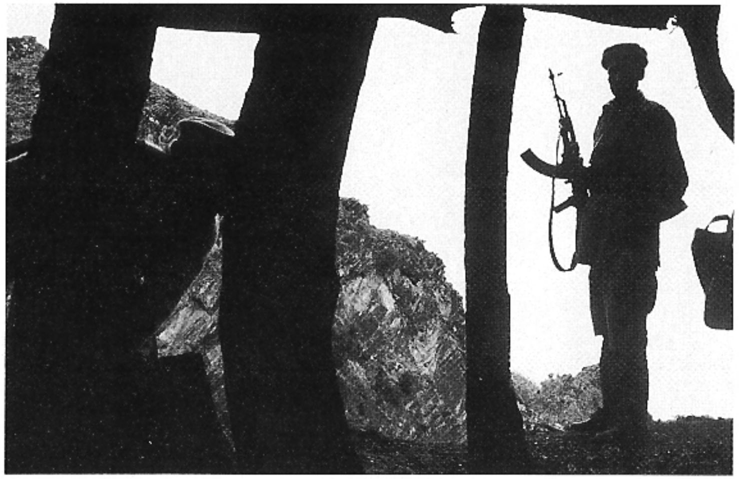
▶ Afghans shelter in the remains of bombed-out house. (photo: USIA)

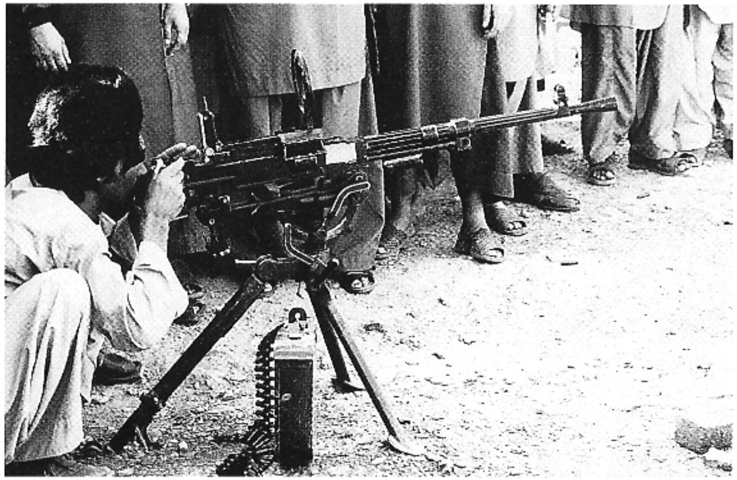
▼ The Soviet 7.62mm×54 SGM medium machine gun is used in limited numbers by the Afghans. (photo: David Isby)

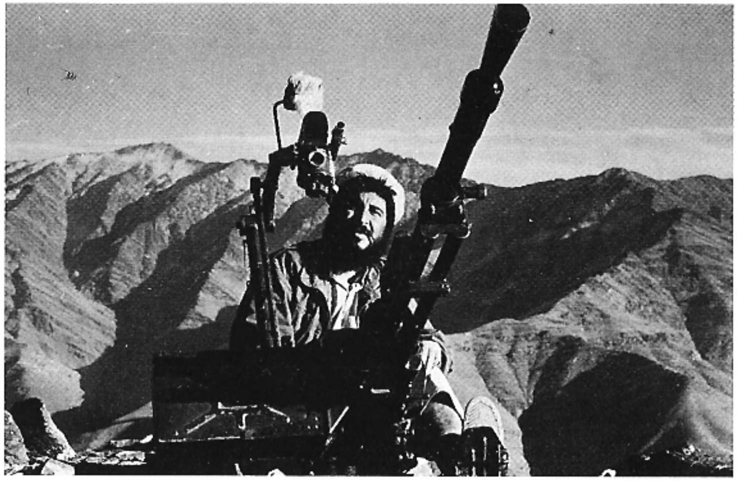
▼▶ Mullah Izzatullah of Jamiat-e-Islami, one of the leading Afghan commanders in the strategic Paghman area, north of Kabul, is shown with a 14.5mm ZGU-1 "Ziqroiat" with the Hindu Kush in the background. (photo: Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan)

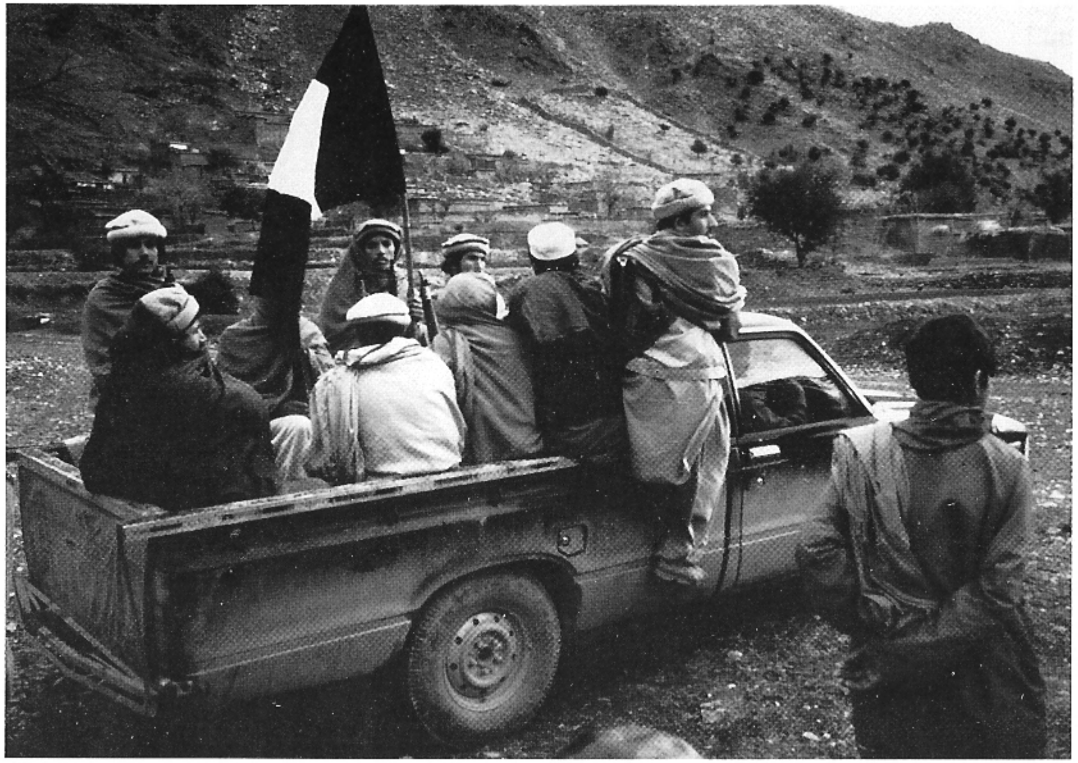


Afghan RPG-7 gunner of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan with his Chinese-made weapon, in 1983. (photo: Jim Graves)

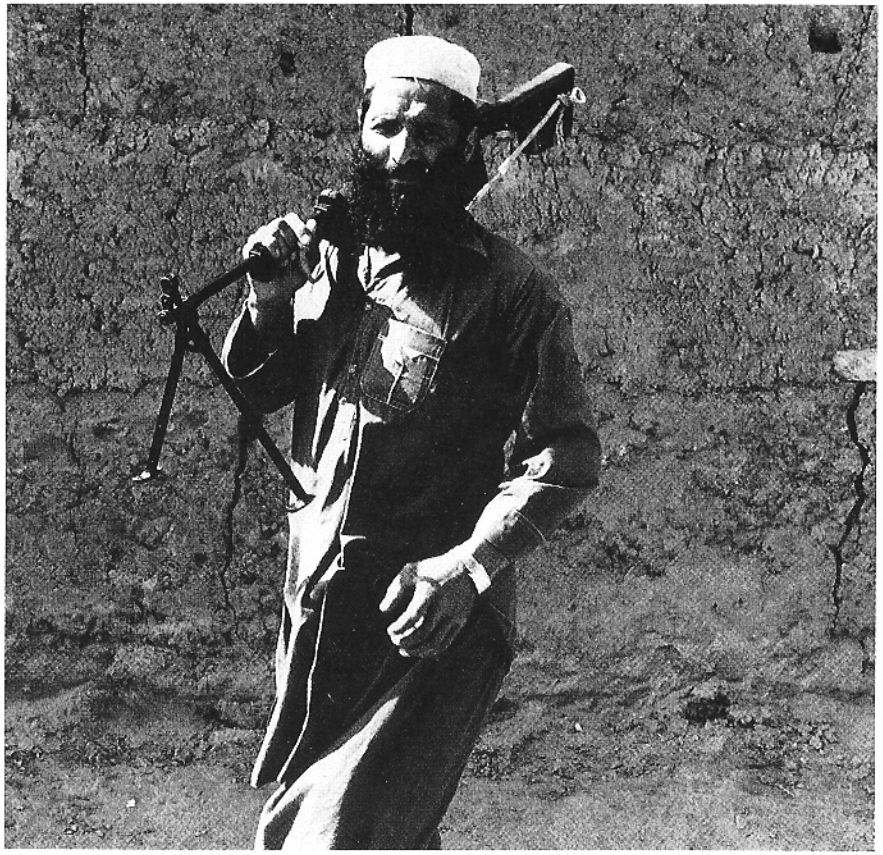




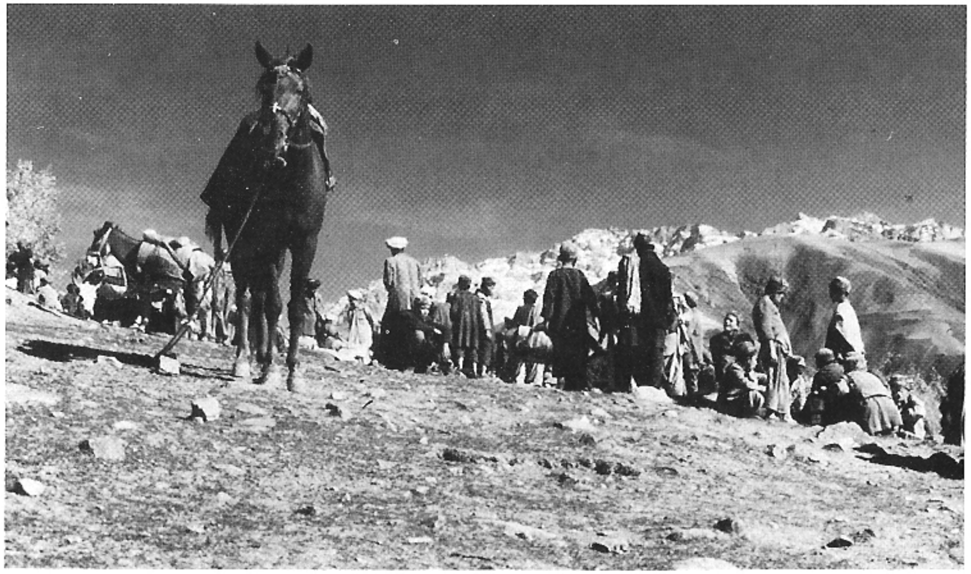




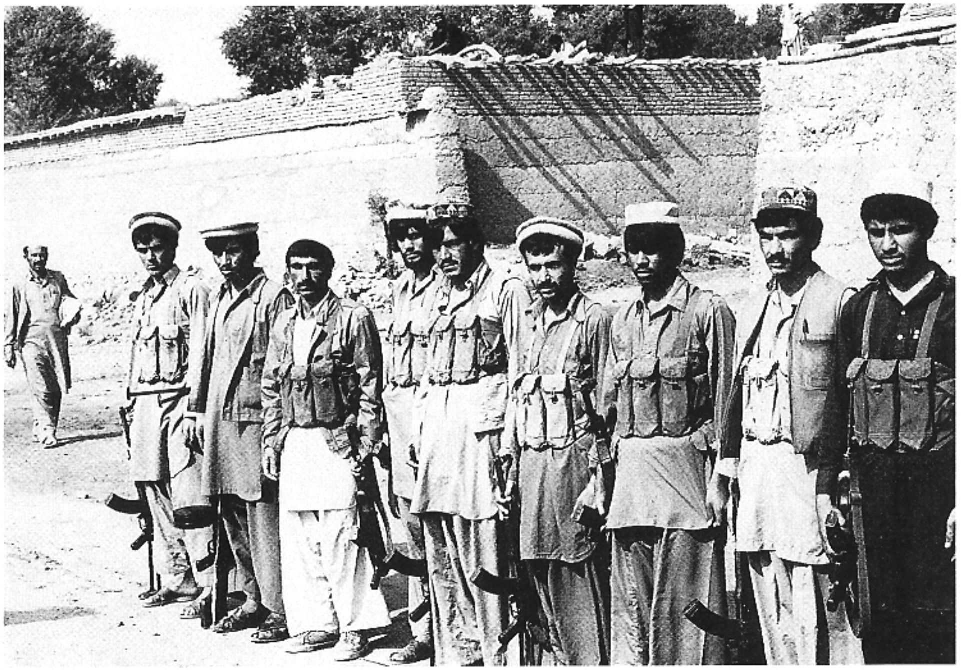
Afghan resistance have relied on a broad range of standard civilian light trucks as their main logistics vehicles throughout the war. The flag serves as a recognition signal to checkpoints. (photo: David Isby)

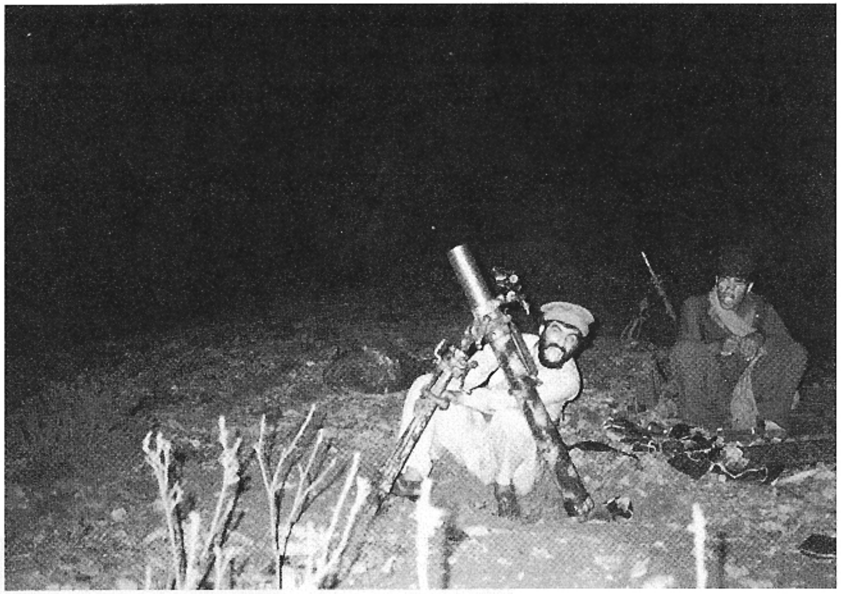


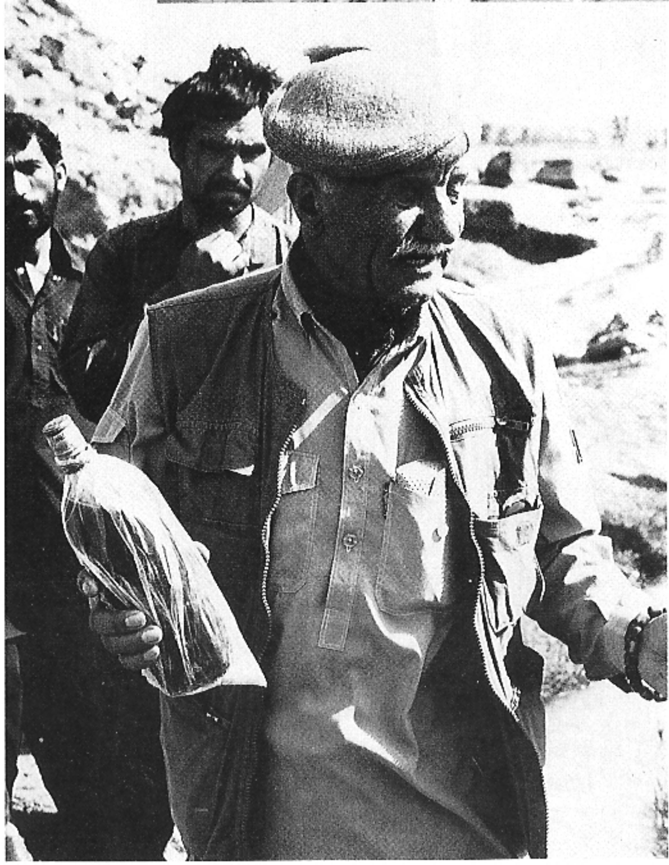
Afghan guerrilla armed with an 7.62mm RPD light machine gun. (photo: David Isby)



A convoy of refugees from northern Afghanistan halts on their way to Pakistan. Such convoys were often the targets of Soviet airstrikes prior to 1987. (photo: Muhammed Shuaib)



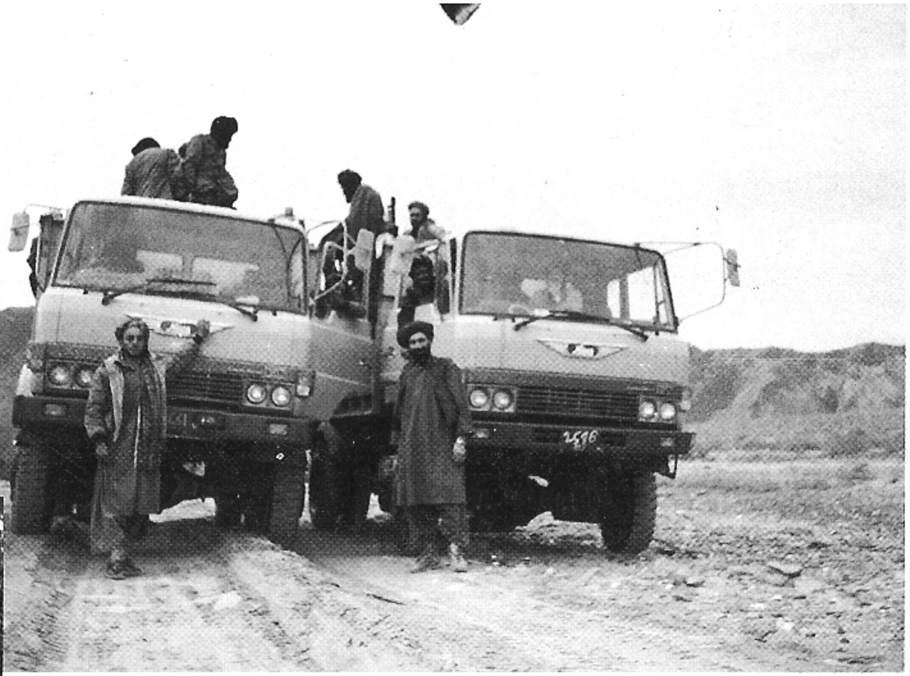


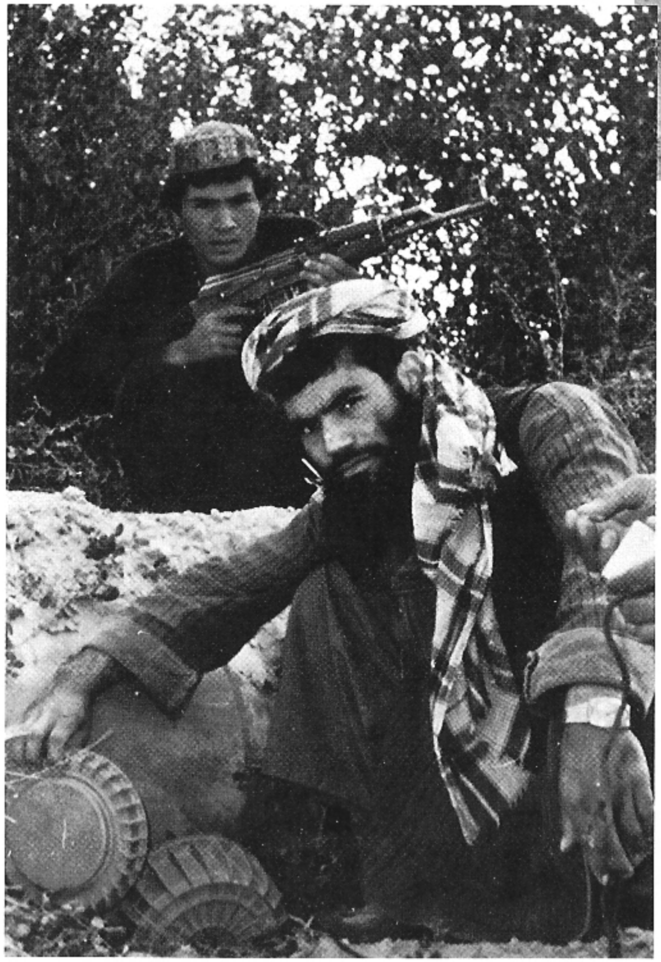


▲▶ A British-designed Three Inch mortar of Second World War vintage being used by the Afghans in Paktia province in 1984. The tube is painted in sand with dark green camouflage markings. (photo: Dr. Khalid Akram)

▲ Afghan mujahideen, all eastern Ghilzai Pathans, 1987. All of this group that are armed with 7.62mm Kalashnikovs also have Chinese chest magazine carriers, while the one man armed with a 7.62mm RPD LMG would probably carry extra drums in a naversack. All wear either skullcaps or the more usual flat caps. (photo: David Isby)

▶ Ramatullah Safi, a former colonel in the Royal Afghan Army and a resistance commander, about to demonstrate a "Kabul Cocktail", an improvised anti-vehicle munition. (photo: David Isby)

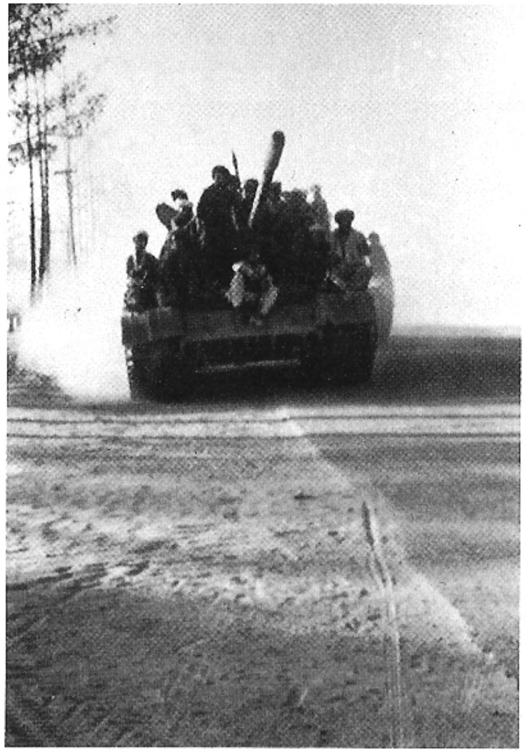


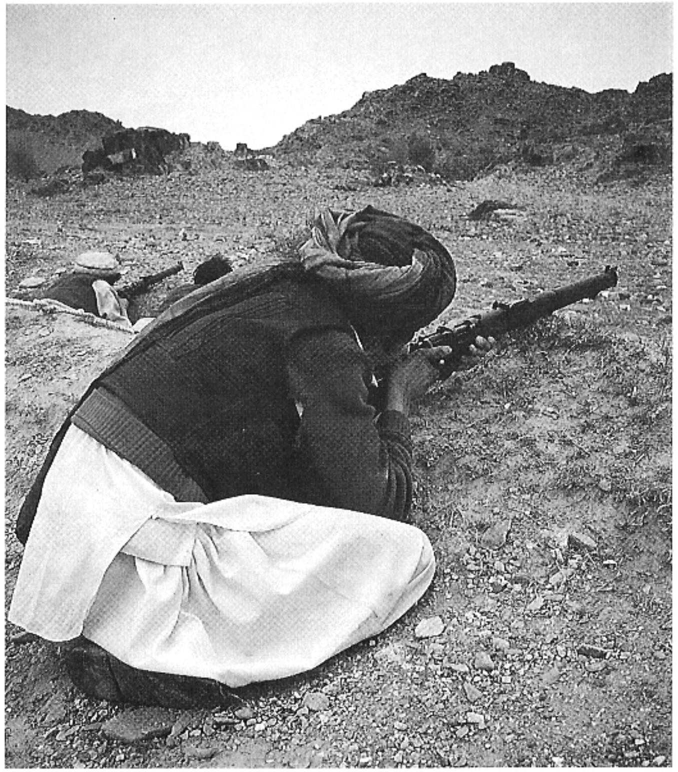


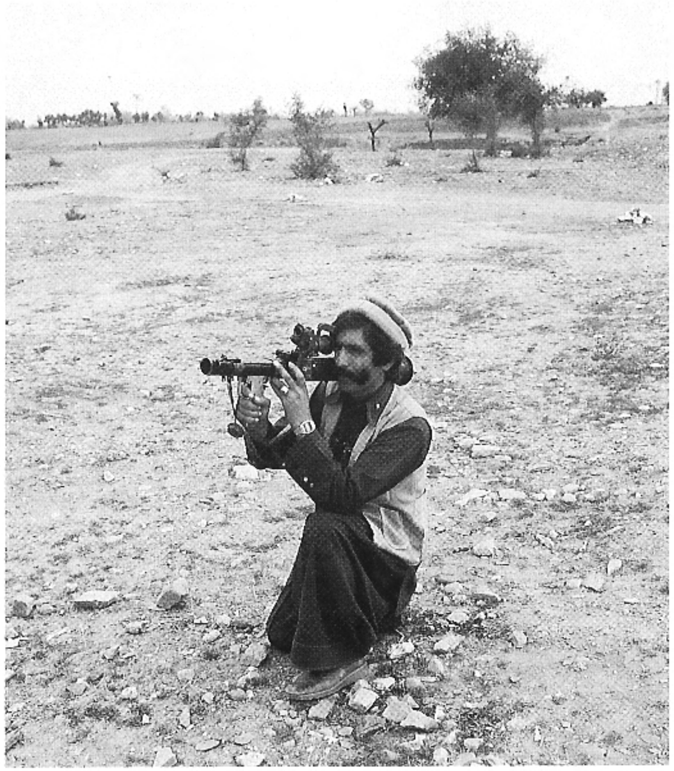
▶ A captured T-55A in Kandaha province in 1988. The resistance had a dozen captured tanks in the area, but had great difficulty keeping them operational. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

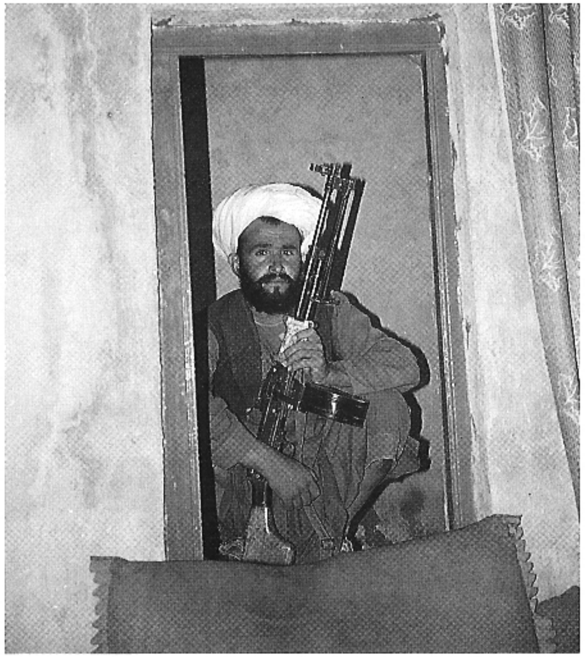
◀ Afghans about to use antitank mines to blow a hole in an above-ground POL pipeline. The damage they caused, however, was relatively easily repaired. (photo: David Isby)

▲ These large yellow-painted Hino commercial trucks used by Jamiat-Islamic forces in southern Afghanistan are typical of the large logistic support vehicles that were used in 1987-90 after the helicopter threat diminished.

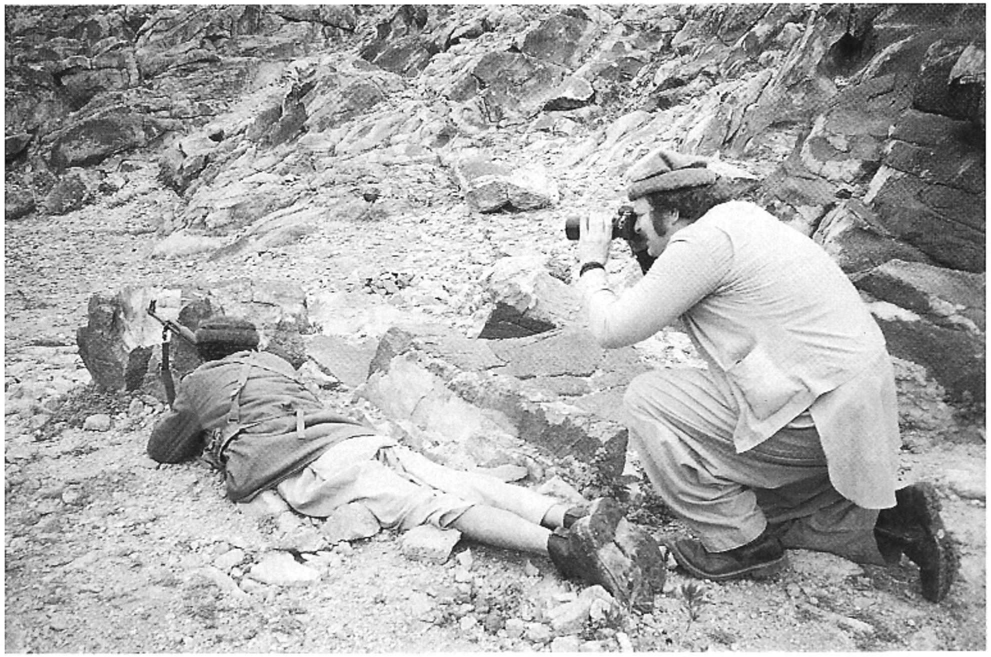








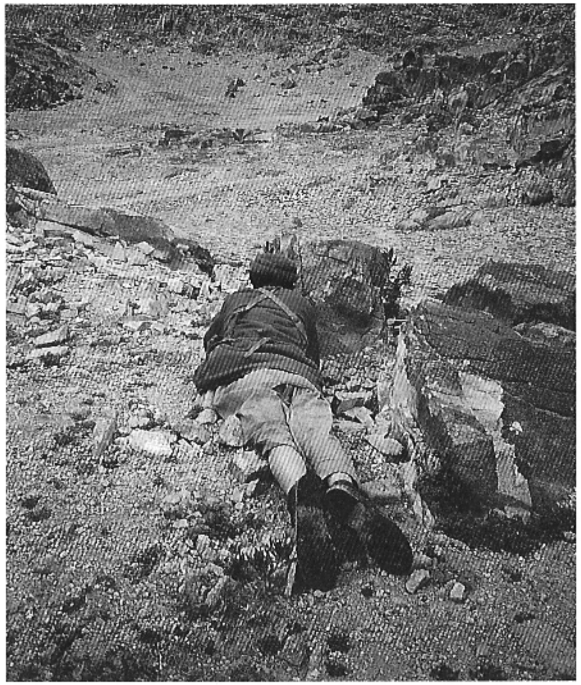
Afghan sentry armed with an RPD 7.62mm light machine gun. (photo: David Isby)



▲ . An Afghan demonstrates proper firing position for his (unloaded) Chinese-made RPG-7. (photo: David Isby)

◀ The author focussing downrange. No one showed up for either him or the Afghan to shoot. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

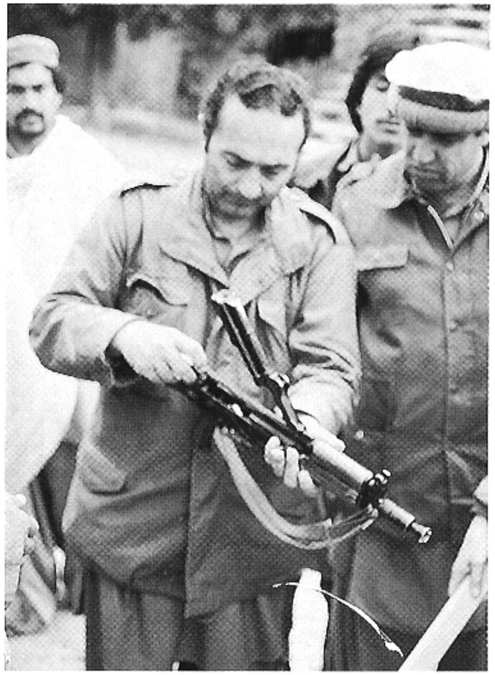
◀▲ Afghans take up firing positions, January, 1985. (photo: David Isby)



▲◀ Afghan take cover in the field. If time permits, they will improve their fighting positions with breastworks made of local stone, known as sangars. (photo: David Isby)

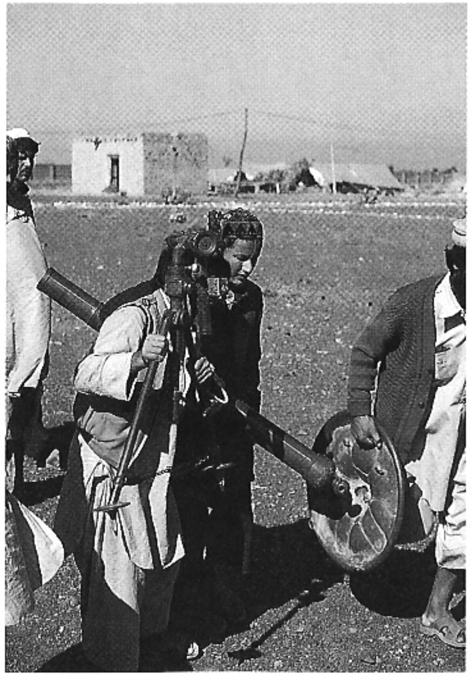
◀ An Afghan welcome - firing off lots of ammunition to welcome a visiting dignitary. (photo: David Isby)

▲ Animal transport was vital before the introduction of Stinger SAMs, and remains critical north of the Hindu Kush. This photograph was taken by Jim Lindelof in 1985, who was killed by a Soviet Hind helicopter in 1987. (photo: James T. Lindelof)

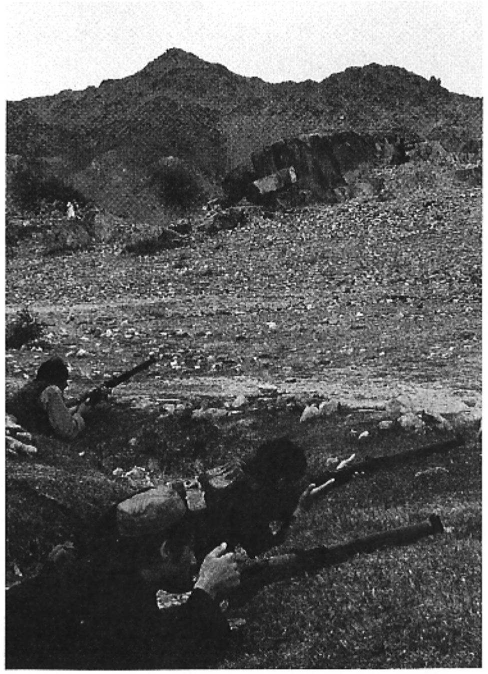


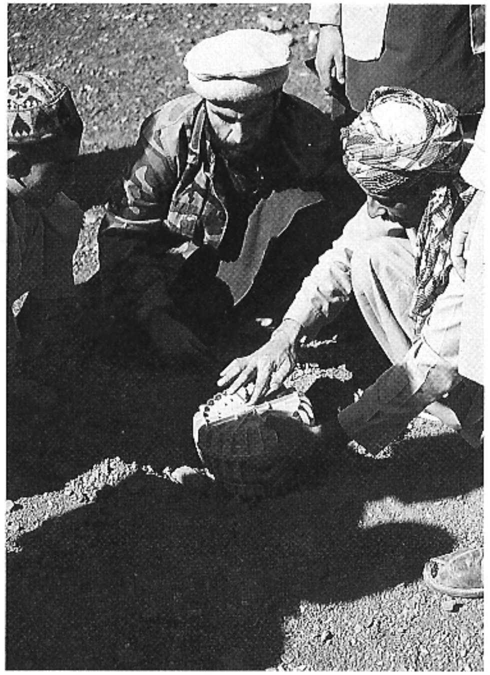
Hassan Gailani, who has seen extensive action in eastern Afghanistan, examines a captured 5.54mm AKSU short assault rifle. (photo: David Isby)

Afghans demonstrate how they would move an 82mm M-1937 mortar in action. (photo: David Isby)

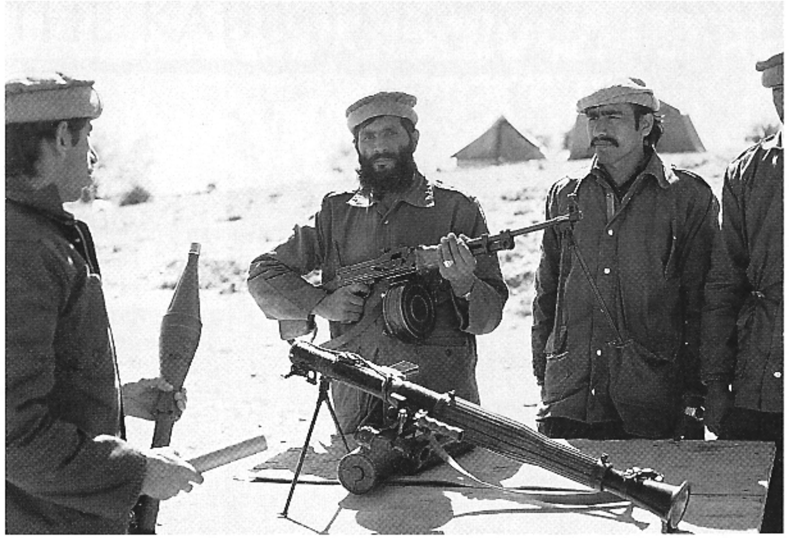


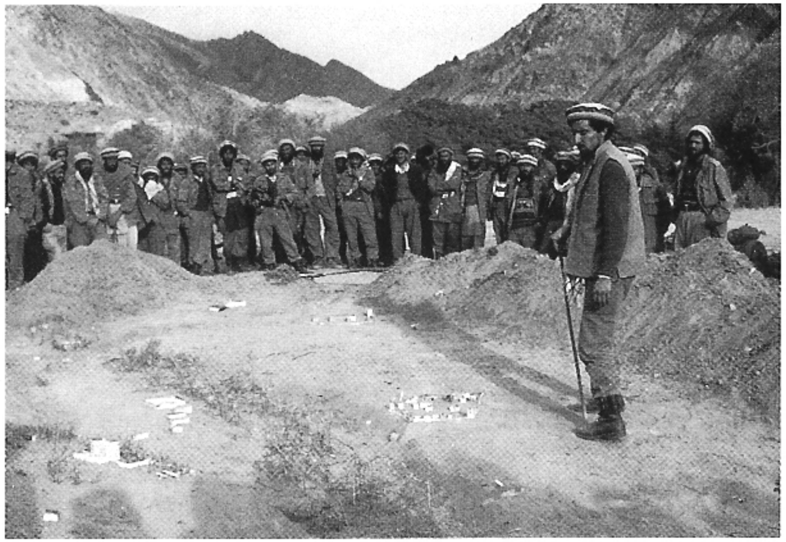
Afghans take up hasty firing positions. (photo: David Isby)

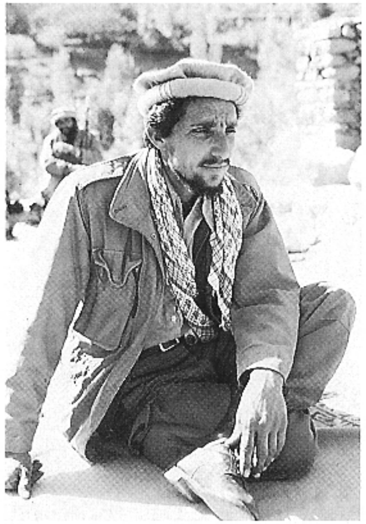




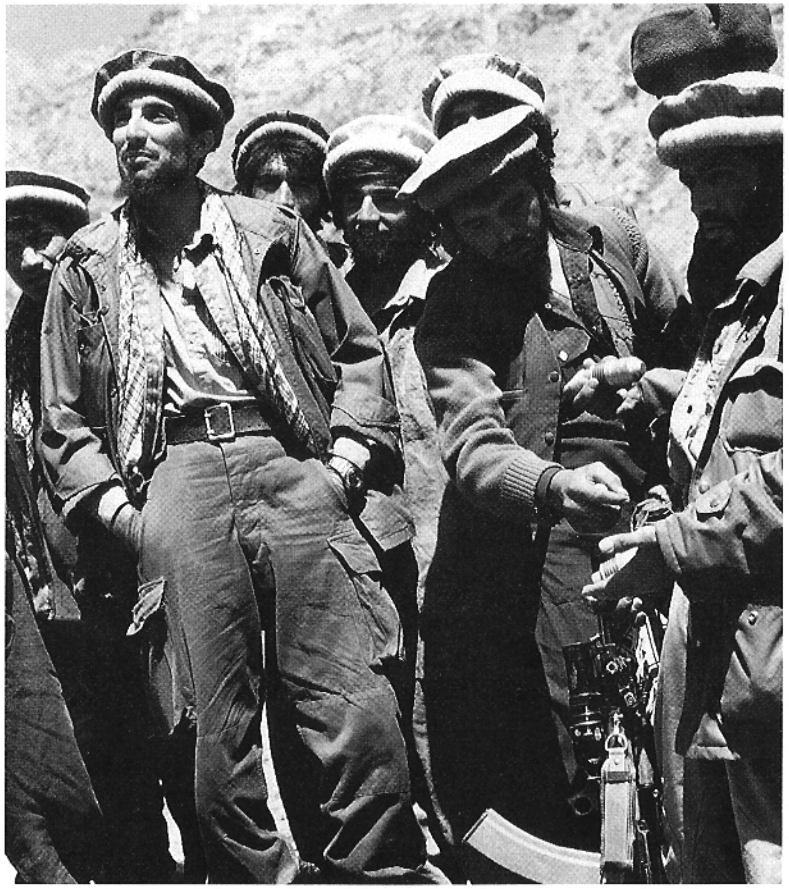
Afghans demonstrate how to plant an anti-tank mine. These sand-colored mines are known as "Italian mines" to the Soviet Army, although they are not made in Italy. (photo: David Isby)







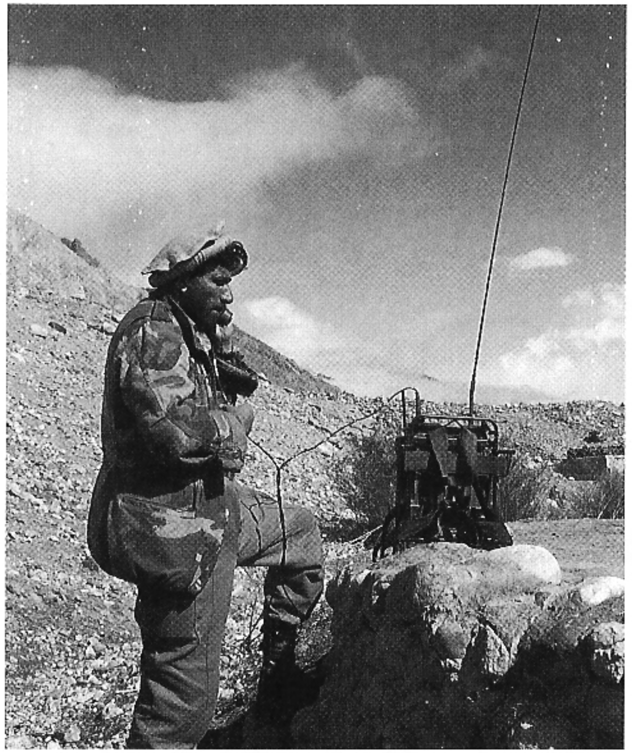
Ahmad Shah Massoud, the foremost Afghan resistance commander. A Dari-speaking Tadjik of the Jamiat-e-Islami party, he has forces throughout Afghanistan north of the Hindu Kush. (photo: Mohammed Shuaib)

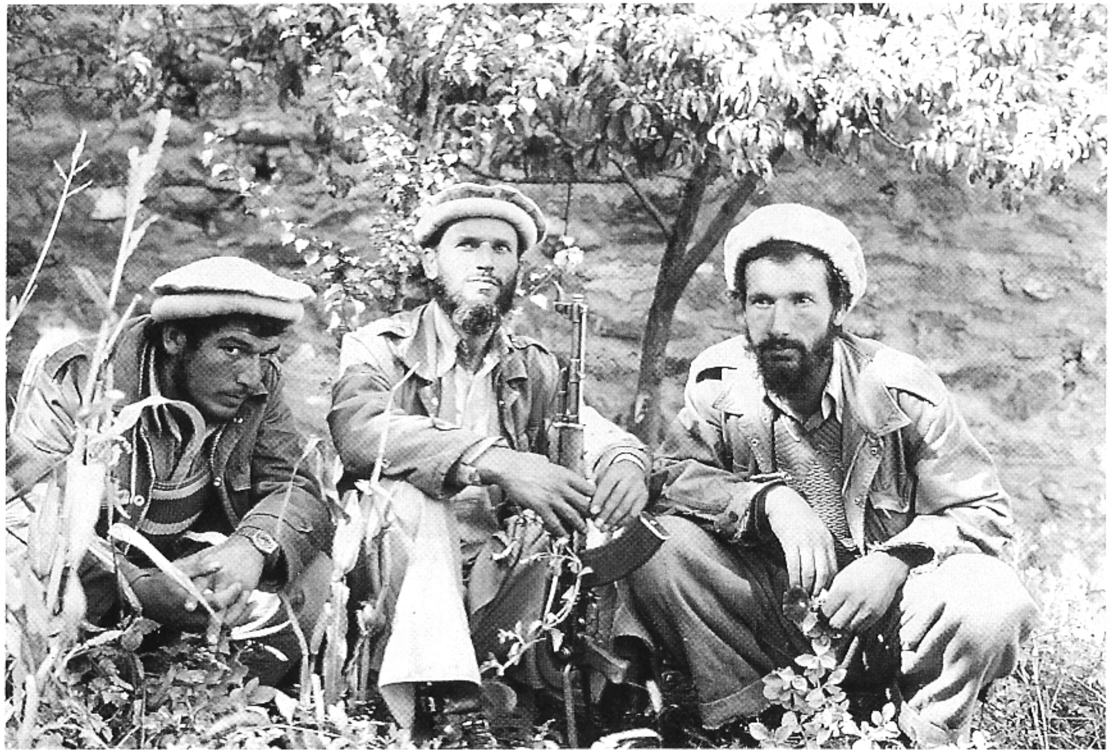


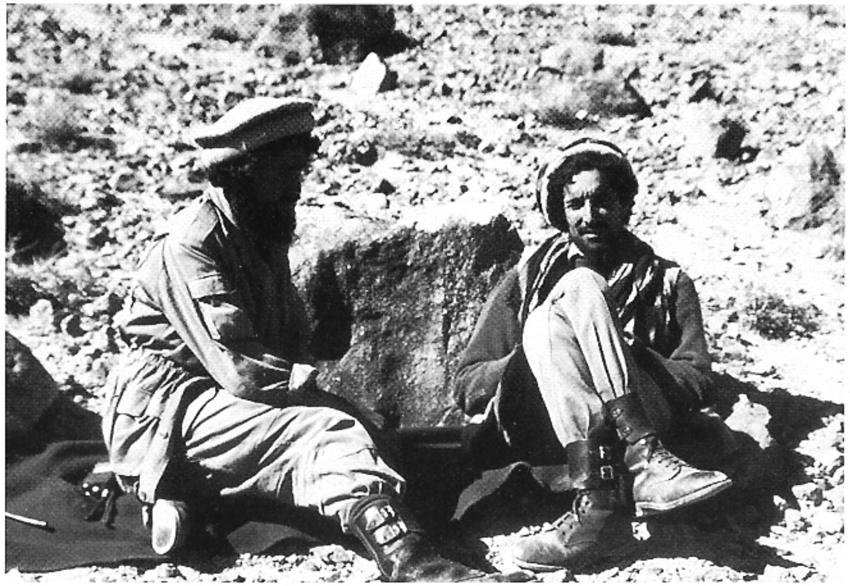
▲ Ahmad Shah Massoud demonstrates the planning that has made him the most successful Afghan commander, briefing his subordinates with a model for the upcoming attack on Koran va Monjan. (photo: Mohammed Shuaib)

▲◀ At a training camp, Afghans display a 7.62mm RPD light machine gun and a Chinese-made RPG-7 rocket launcher. (photo: David Isby)

◀ A captured Soviet 5.45mm AK-74 assault rifle with an under-barrel 40mm BG-15 grenade launcher (right) is shown to Ahmad Shah Massoud, premier Afghan resistance leader in northern Afghanistan. (photo: Mohammed Shuaib)





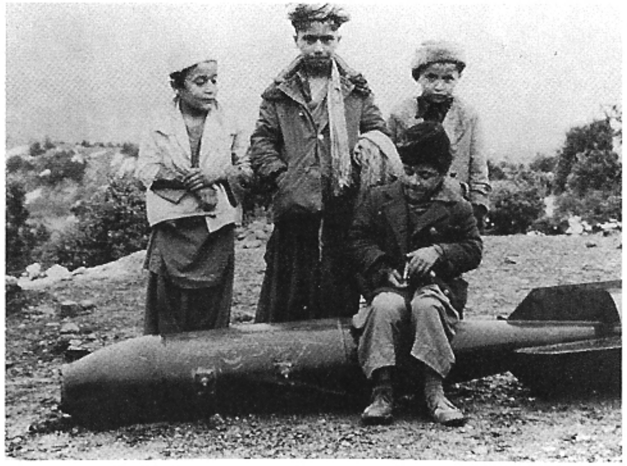


Ahmad Shah Massoud (right) before his forces attack Koran va Monjan in 1987. He has been one of the few Afghan leaders to effectively master both the strategy and tactics of guerrilla warfare. (photo: Mohammed Shuaib)

▲◀ One of Ahmad Shah Massoud's "Central Forces" regulars - here wearing a U.S. pattern camouflaged field jacket over his Soviet uniform trousers - uses a U.S. supplied radio. Effective communications throughout north Afghanistan have been one of the reasons for Massoud's success. (photo: Mohammed Shuaib)

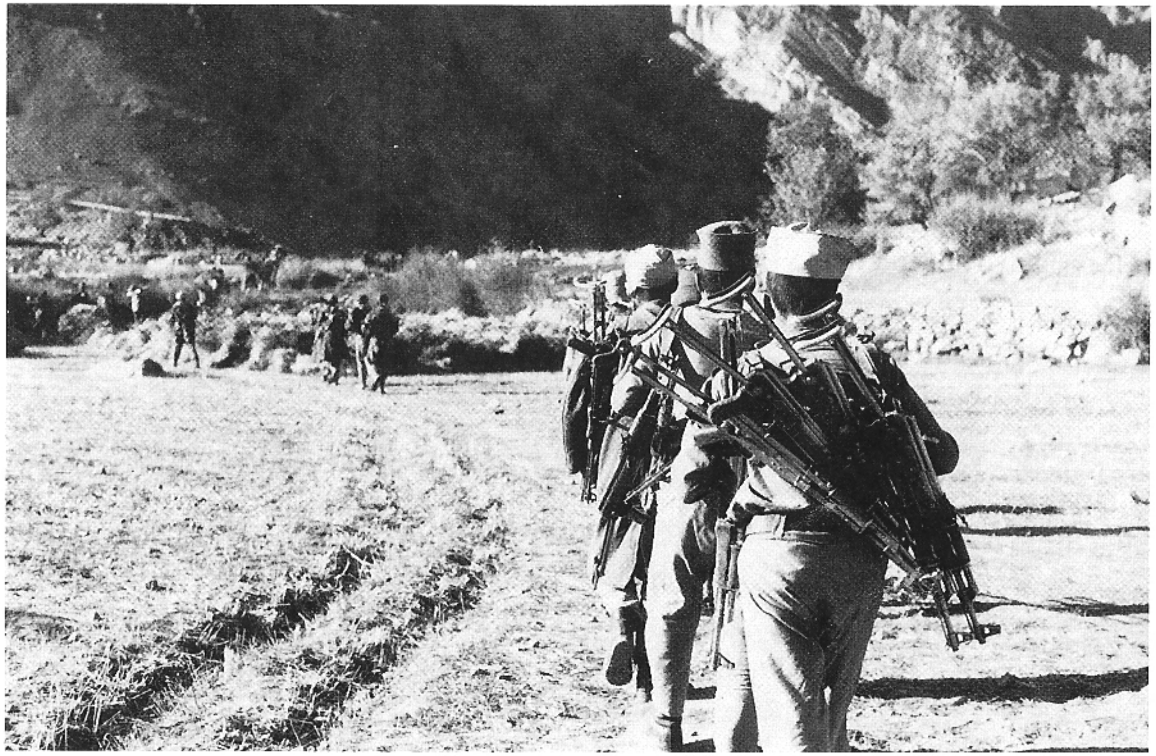
▲ Men of Ahmad Shah Massoud's Central Forces, who were given a uniform and paid a salary and underwent regular training. In 1988-9, they became the cadre of what Massoud hoped to form into an army in north Afghanistan. (photo: Mohammed Shuaid)

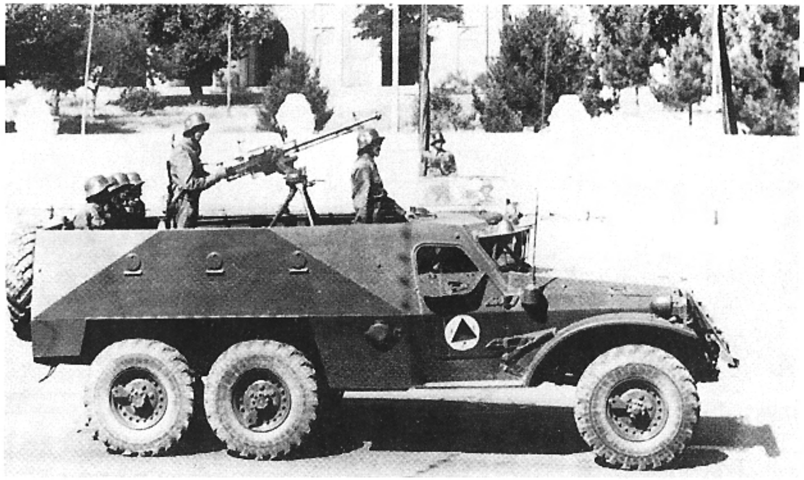
▶ Afghan children on a dud Soviet bomb: the present and future of Afghanistan. (photo: Committee for a Free Afghanistan)

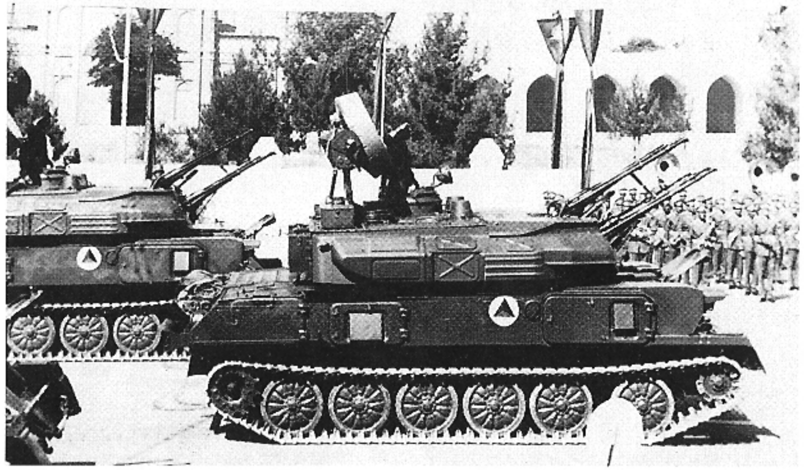


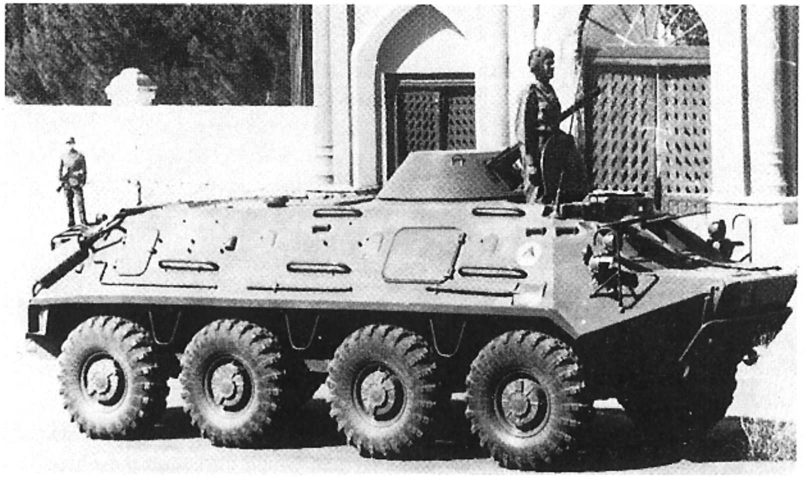
# THE KABUL REGIME

Kabul regime infantry, having joined the Afghan resistance after the fall of Koran va Monjan to the forces of Ahmad Shah Massoud in 1987. They carry many of the 7.62mm AKMS folding-stock assault rifles - the standard Kabul regime infantry weapon - captured in the battle. (photo: Mohammed Shuaib)





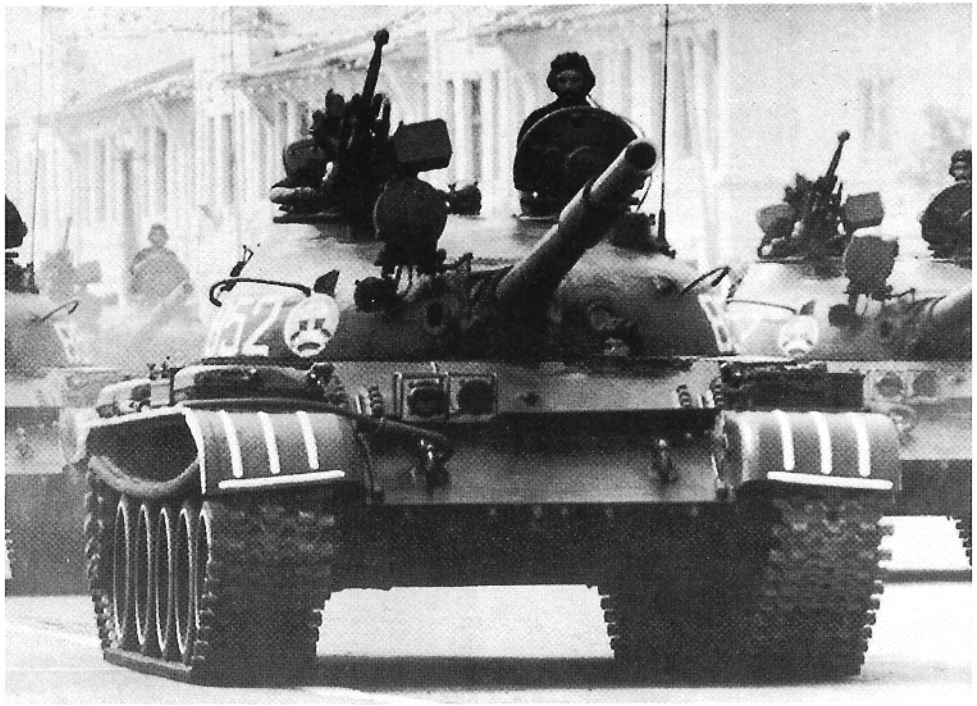


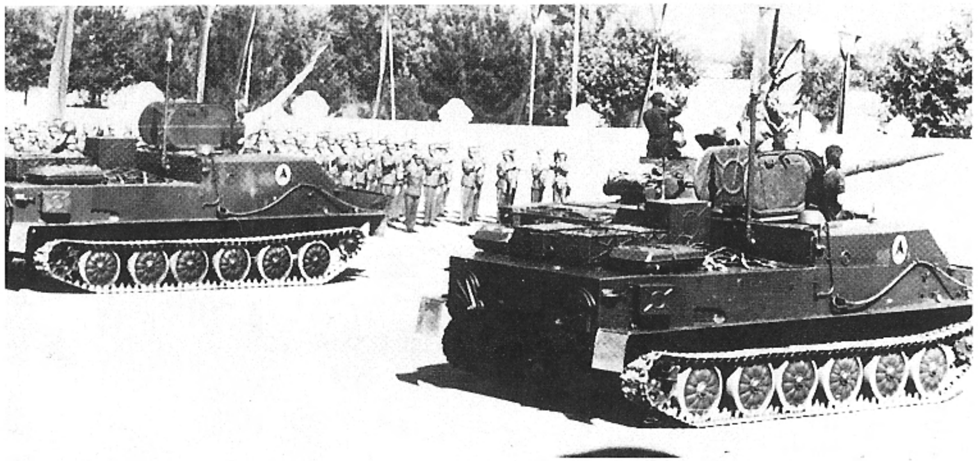


▲ A Kabul regime BTR-152A of the 1979 period on parade: the tripod mounted 12.7mm DShKM HMG in the troop compartment is not a standard mount. The insignia was often carried into the field on operations.

▶▲ ZSU-23-4 SP AA guns of the Kabul regime army of the 1979 period. Only a limited number of ZSU-23-4s were in Kabul regime service, possibly only four but no more than 12. While a battery played an important role in the Communist putsch of April, 1978, they were knocked out and not replaced by the early 1980s.

▶ Kabul regime BTR-60PB in early war markings. The BTR-60PB replaced BTR-152As throughout the war in the Kabul regime. By 1990, even some militia forces were mechanized.



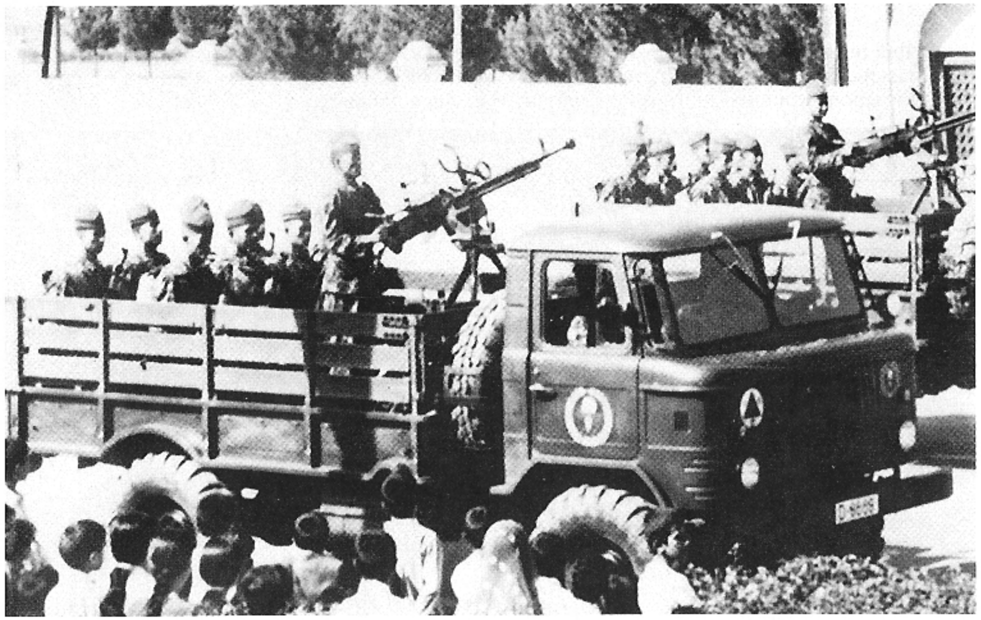


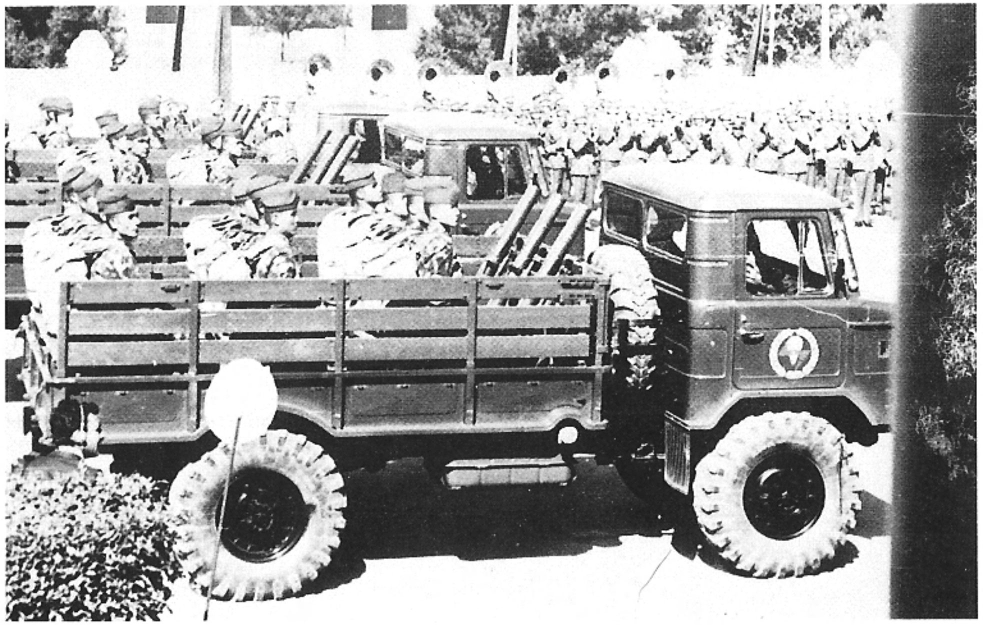
▲▶ GAZ-66 truck of a Kabul regime airborne unit shows the late-1970s national insignia on the vehicle front and the unit insignia on the door. The truck is armed with a "Dashika", a 12.7mm DShKM heavy machine gun.

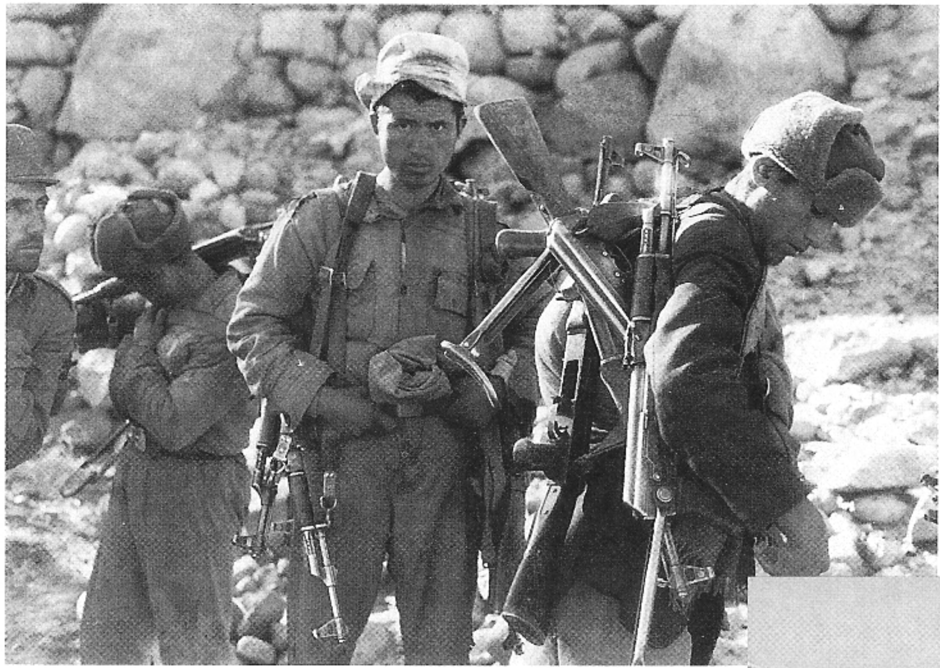
▶ Kabul regime airborne troops with their insignia marked on the door of their GAZ-66 truck. They wear non-standard camouflage. It is uncertain which formation these troops were part of.

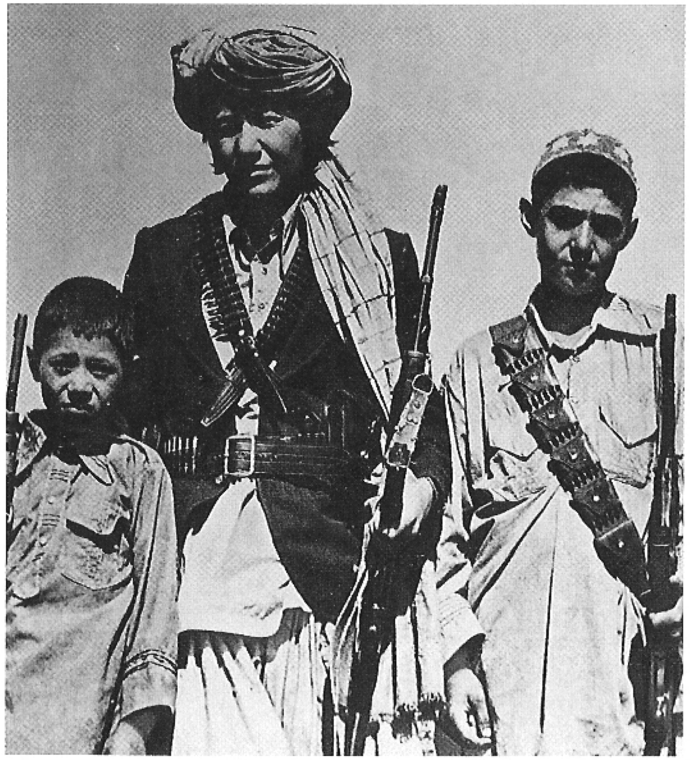
◀ T-62As of the Kabul regime army parade in the early 1980s. The Soviet influence extended even to white parade markings. More T-62s - including up-armored T-62Es - were turned over by the Soviet in 1988-9.

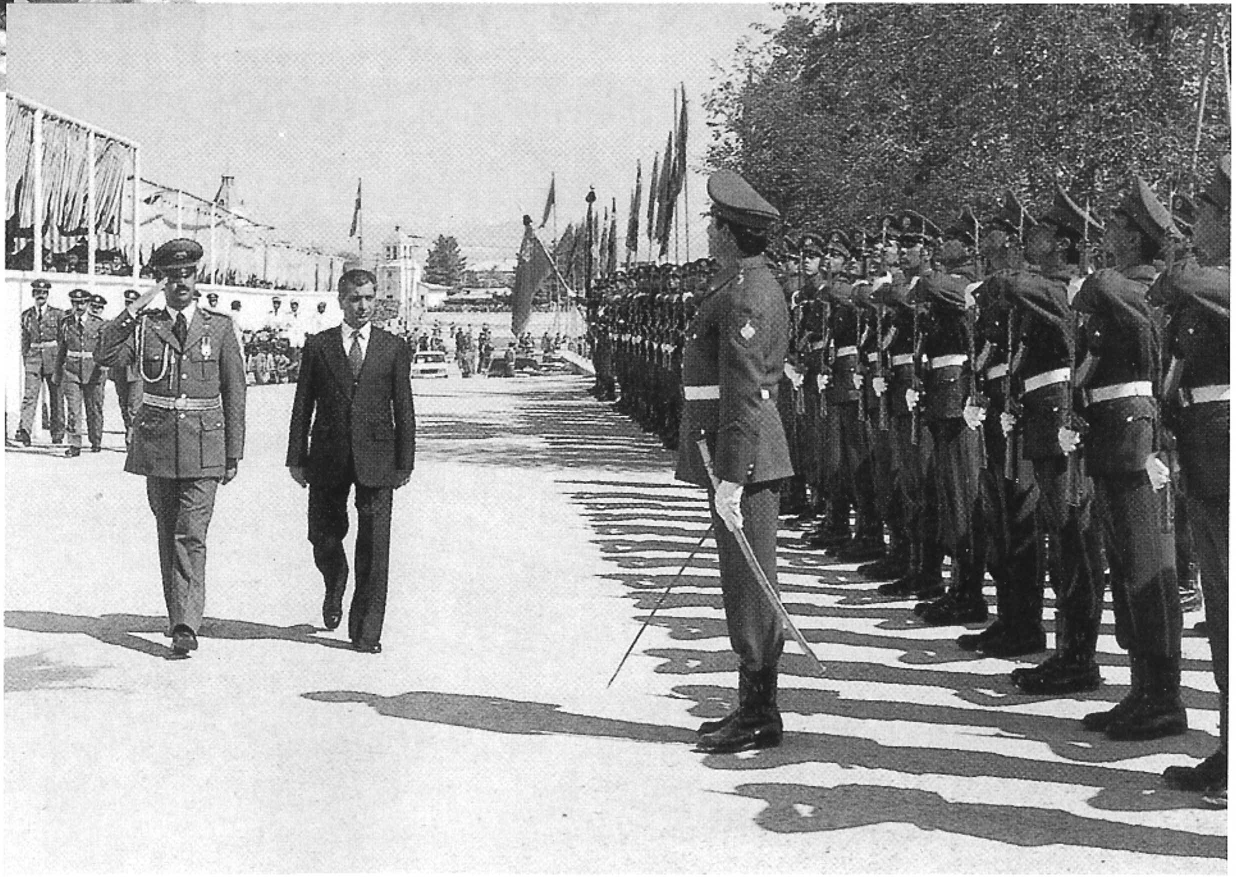
◀▼ BTR-50P APCs of the Kabul regime military. They had only a limited number of these vehicles and most were lost early in the war.







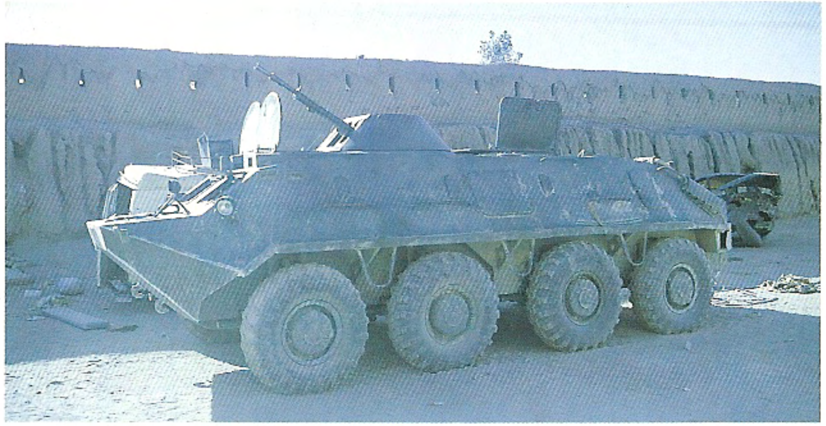




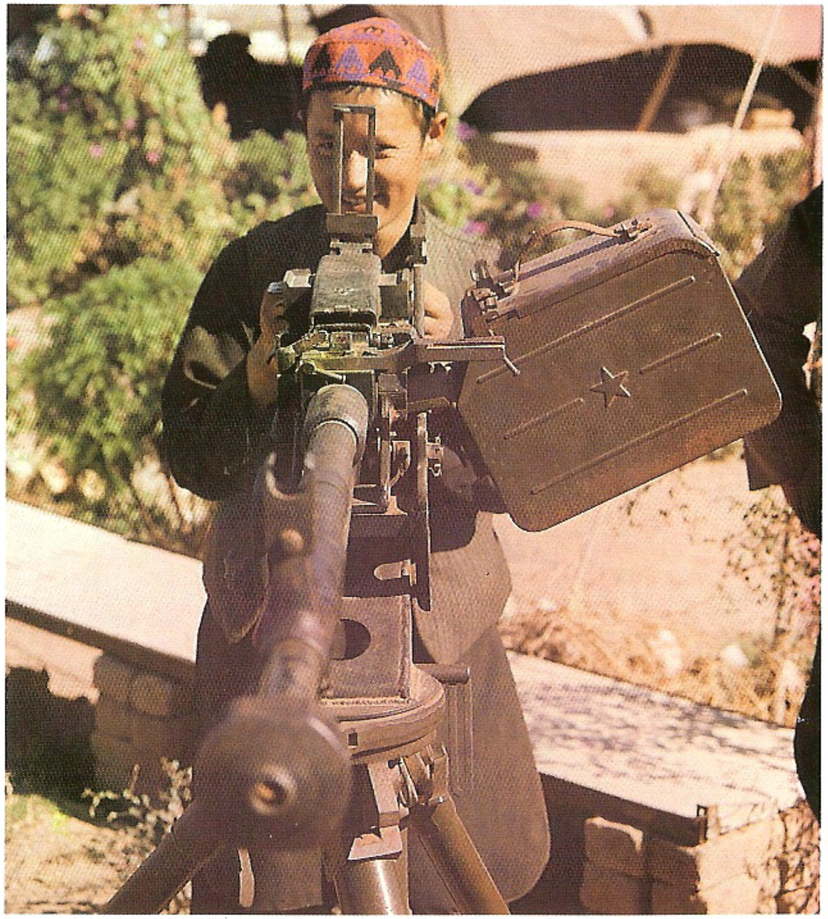
◀ Kabul regime infantry that have joined the resistance wear both Soviet-issue ushanka fur hats and Afghan army field caps. (photo: Mohammed Shuaib)

▼◀ Kabul regime militia, showing the differences in age and lack of uniforms common throughout. Other militias, however, are uniformed and some have proven to be better fighters than much of the army.

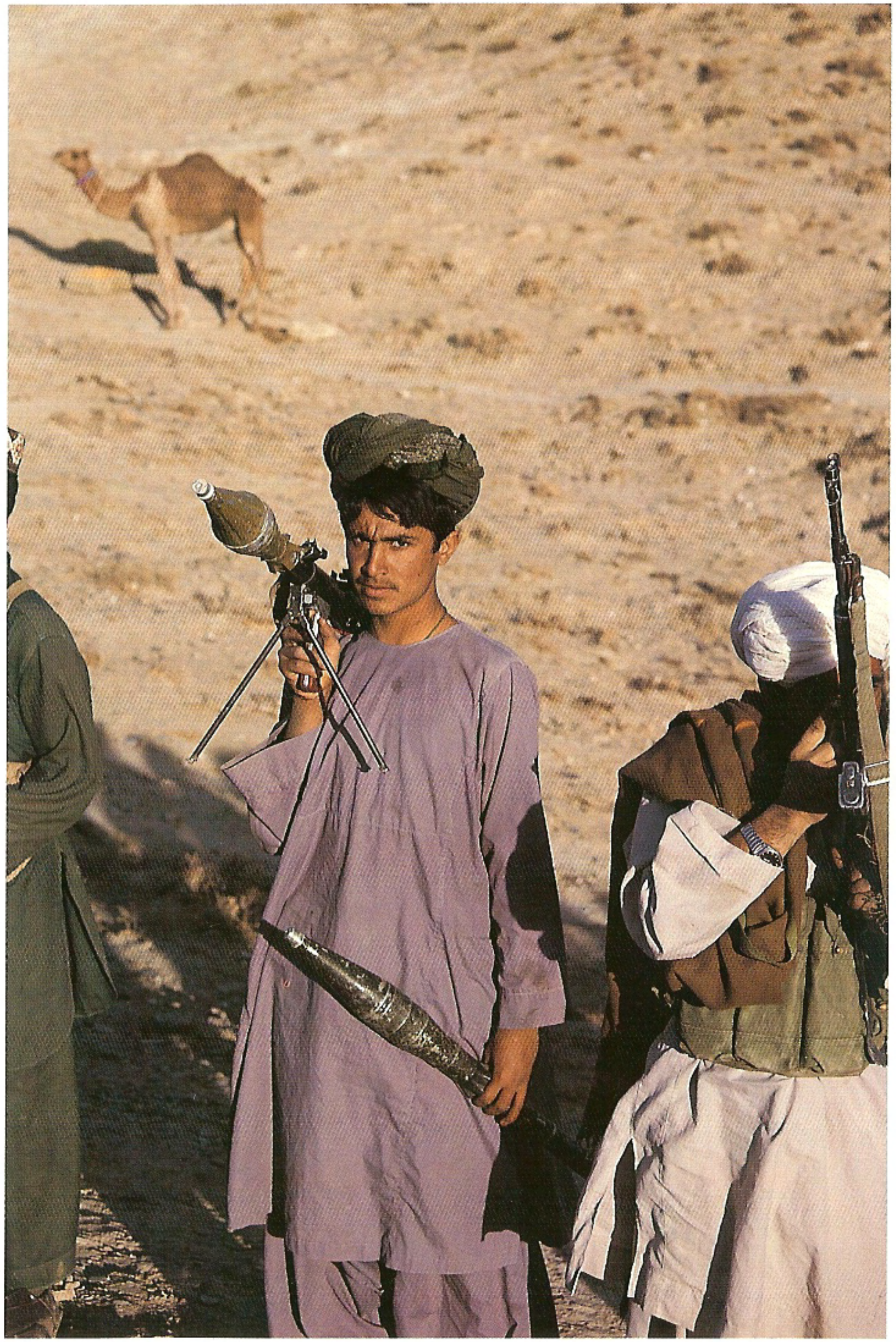
▼ The former head of state of the Kabul regime, Babrak Karmal, inspects troops in dress uniform in the early 1980s.



Knocked-out BTR-60PB of the Kabul regime Border Troops inside the citadel at Spin Boldak, 1988. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



The business end of a 12.7mm DShKM heavy machine gun at a training camp. (photo: David Isby)



Durrani Pathan mujahideen - one armed with an RPG-7. The camel in the background is used to carry supplies. (photo: David Isby)

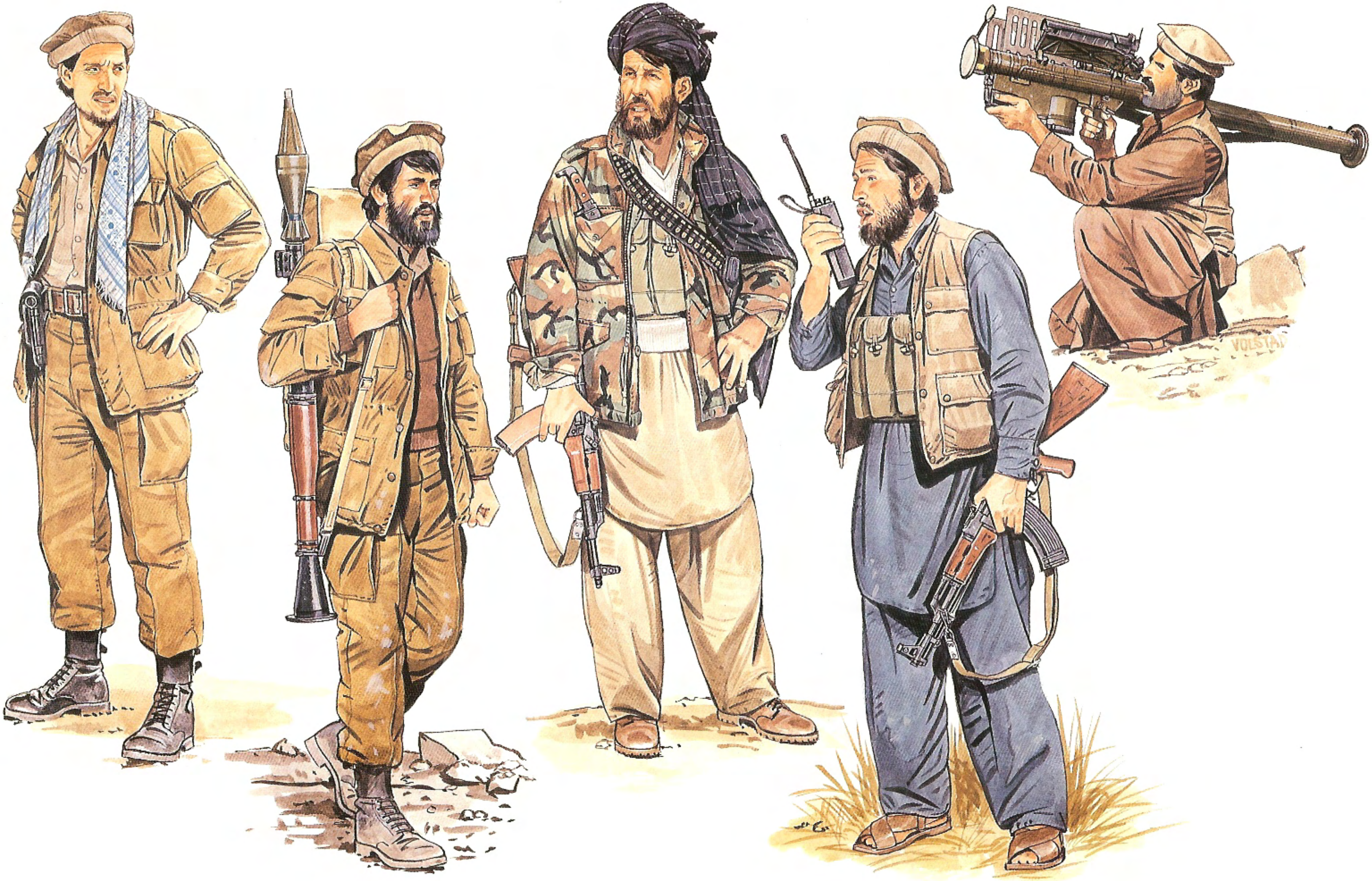


PLATE A

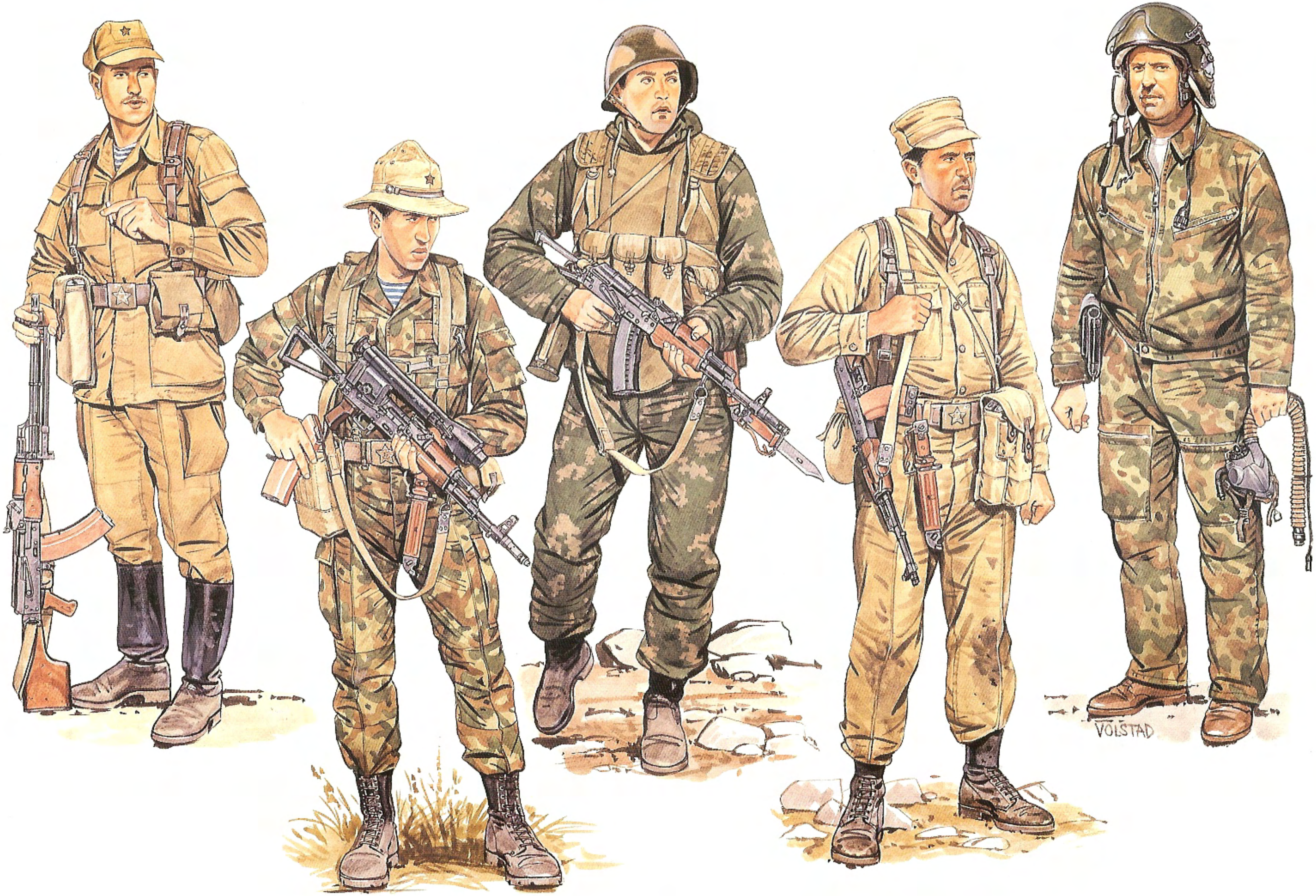
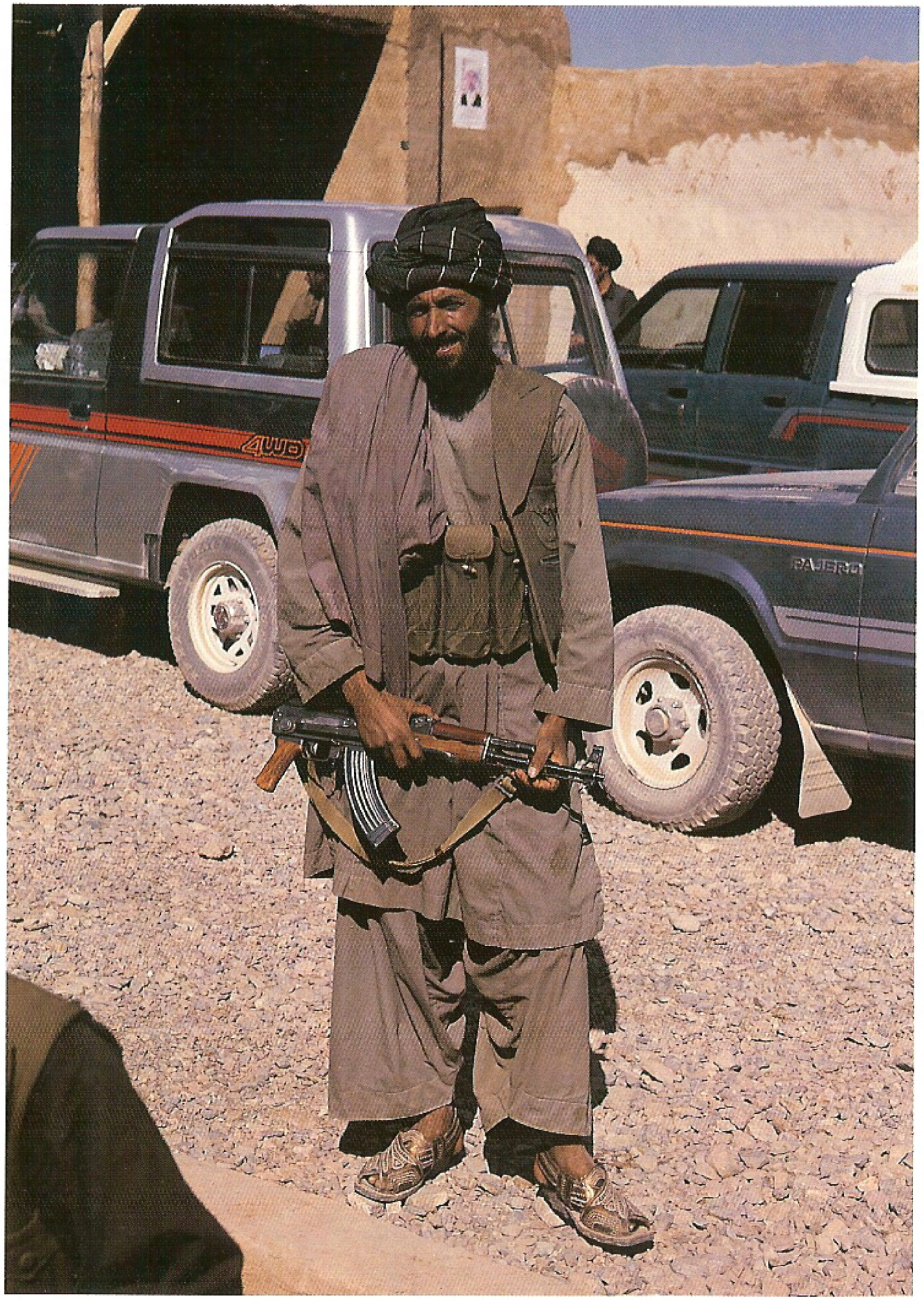
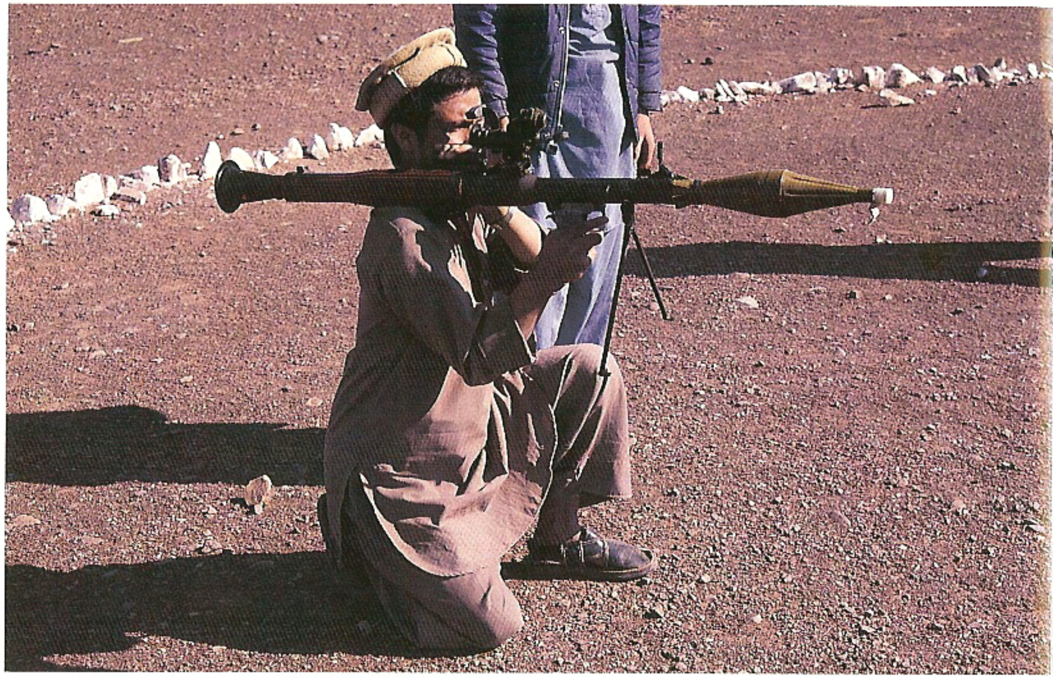


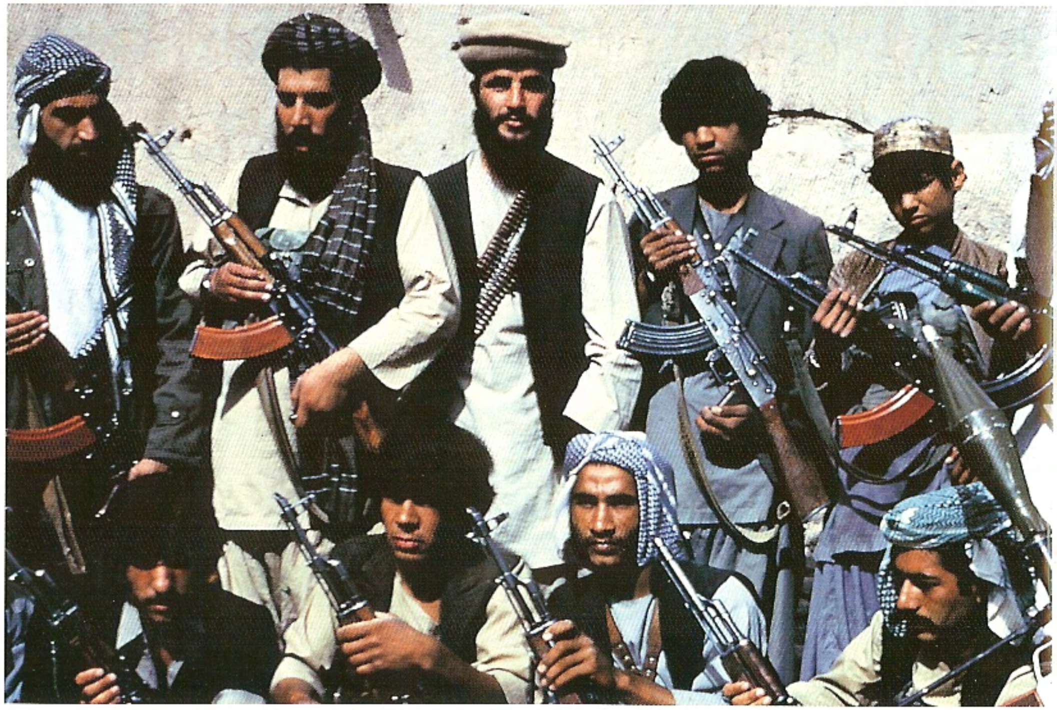
PLATE B



An Afghan guerrilla guards a vehicle park. The Afghans have learned one trick from more sophisticated armies - those furthest from the fighting have the newest, nicest and most reliable four wheel drive vehicles. Mitsubishi and Pajero jeeps are especially favored as status symbols. (photo: David Isby)



RPG-7 instruction in a training camp. (photo: David Isby)

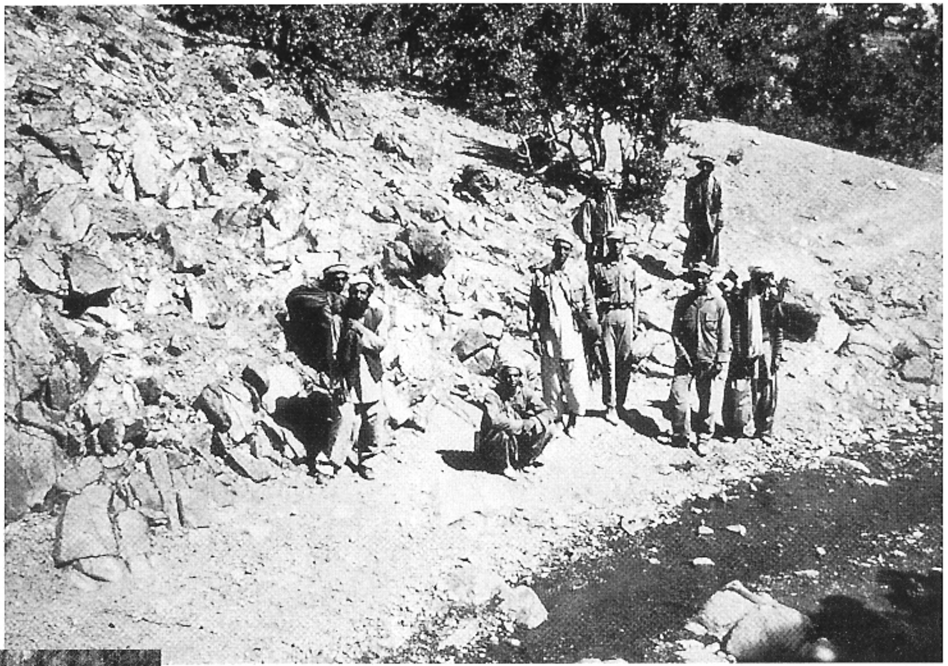


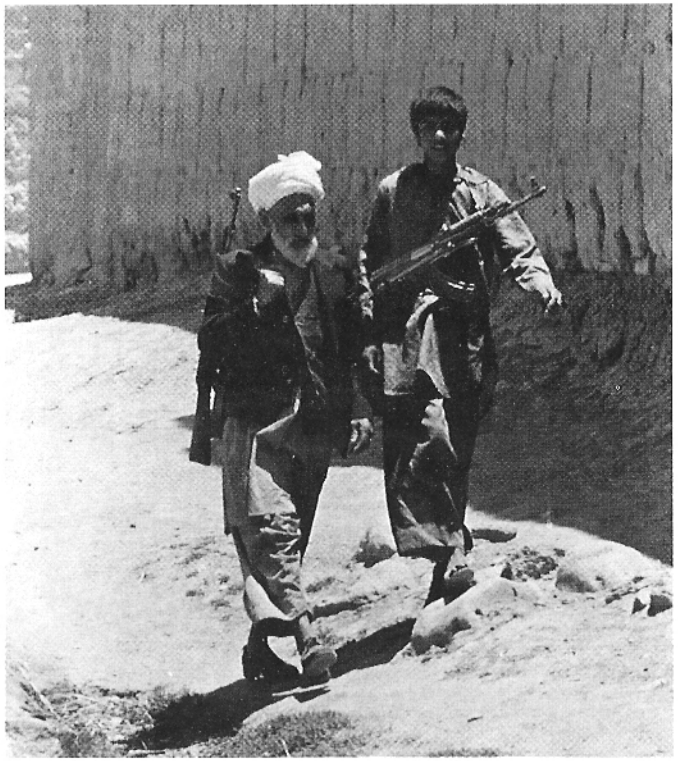
A group of Jamiat-e-Islami mujahideen near Herat, 1985. (photo: Massoud Khalili)

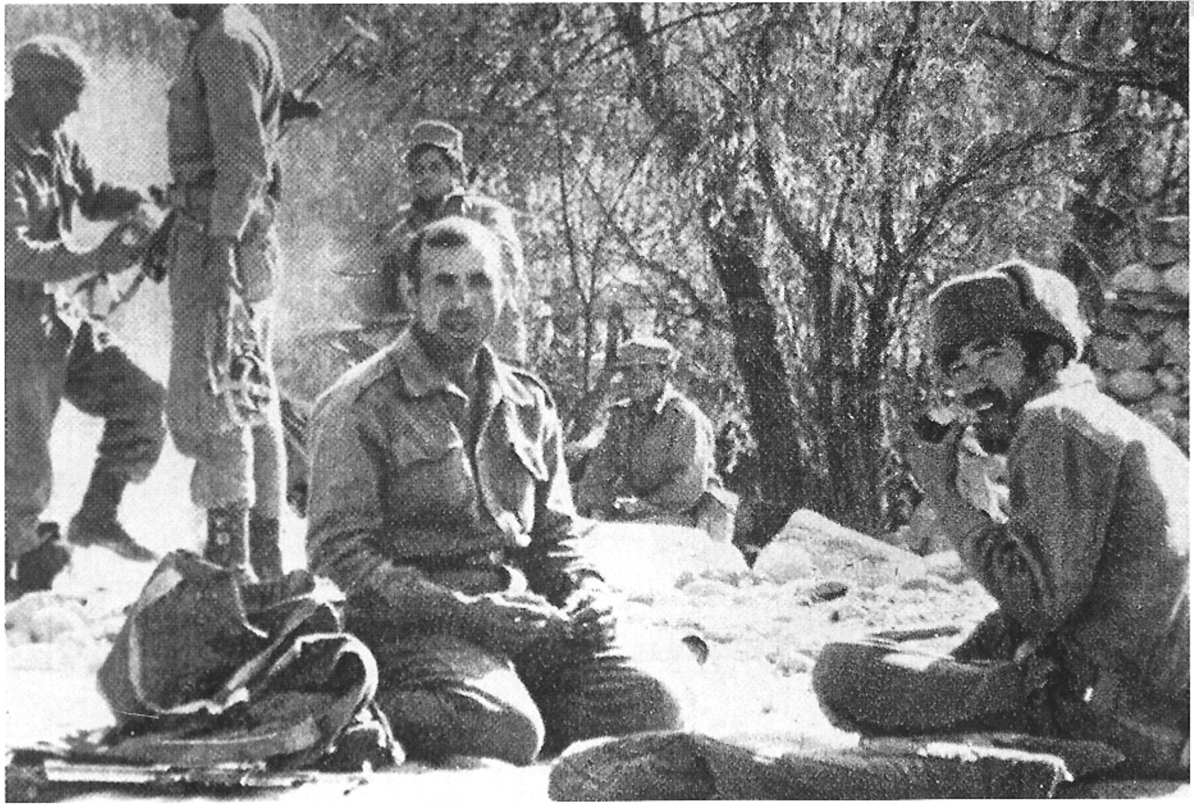
▶ A group of Afghans on their way to Pakistan. Some, recent members of the Kabul regime's armed forces, wear the light Khaki summer uniforms. (photo: David Isby)

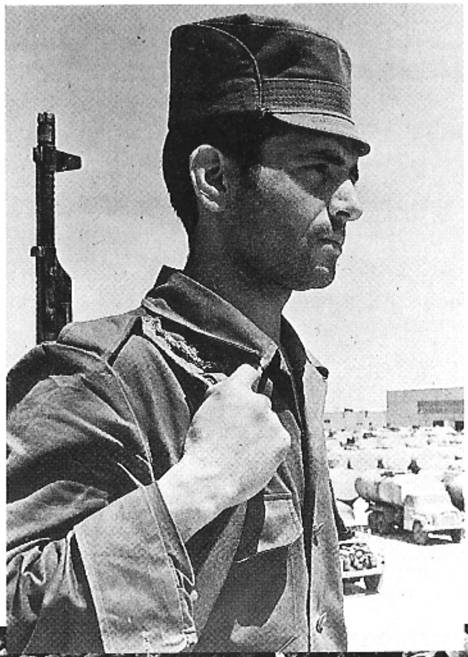
▼▶ Kabul regime militia often lacks uniforms and is basically indistinguishable from the resistance.

▼ Kabul regime infantry have a meal in the field. This photo was taken with a pocket camera by a soldier who later joined the resistance. (photo: National Islamic Front of Afghanistan)



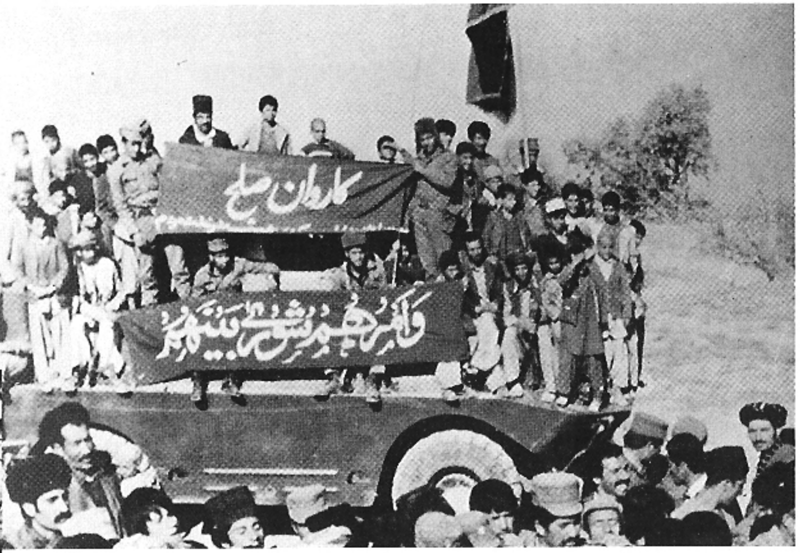




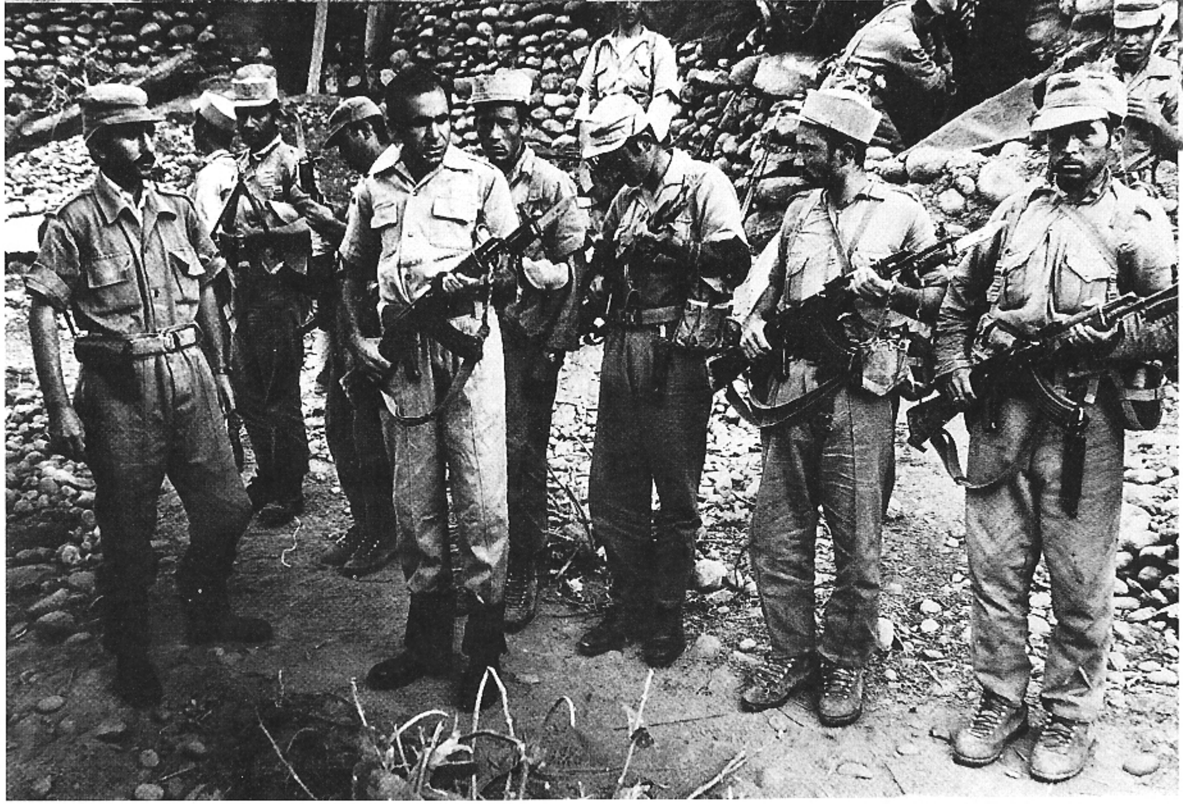


◀ Soviet and Kabul regime troops engaging in civic action. For much of the war, the effect of such activities were undercut by the Soviet use of massive firepower throughout Afghanistan.

▶ Doing his best to look resolute for the camera, this Kabul regime infantryman wears the standard fatigue uniform and is armed with a 7.62mm Kalashnikov.



Trying to win "hearts and minds", a Kabul army regime BRDM-2, in an overall green color scheme, is pressed into service as part of a psychological warfare campaign. These had little impact until the Soviet withdrawal in 1989.



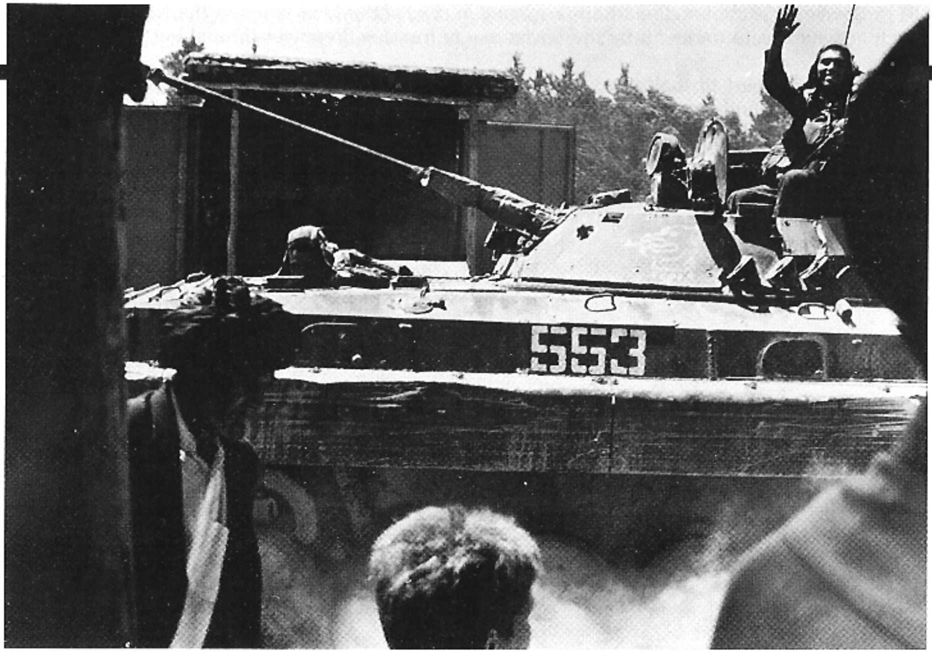
Infantrymen of the Kabul regime. These troops were part of a full brigade based in the Kunar Valley under Colonel Abdul Rauf (without headgear, center) which joined the Afghan resistance. But Afghanistan squabbling prevented this force being effectively used and it soon dispersed.

# THE SOVIET ARMY:

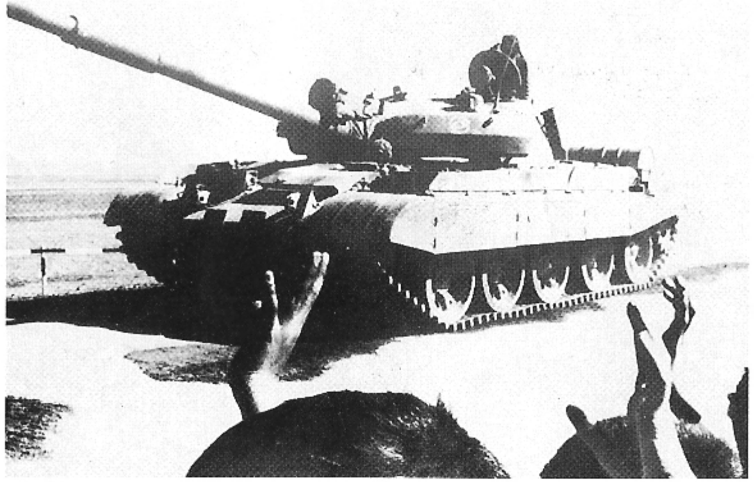
▼ Soviet URAL-375 command van near Kabul, 1987.

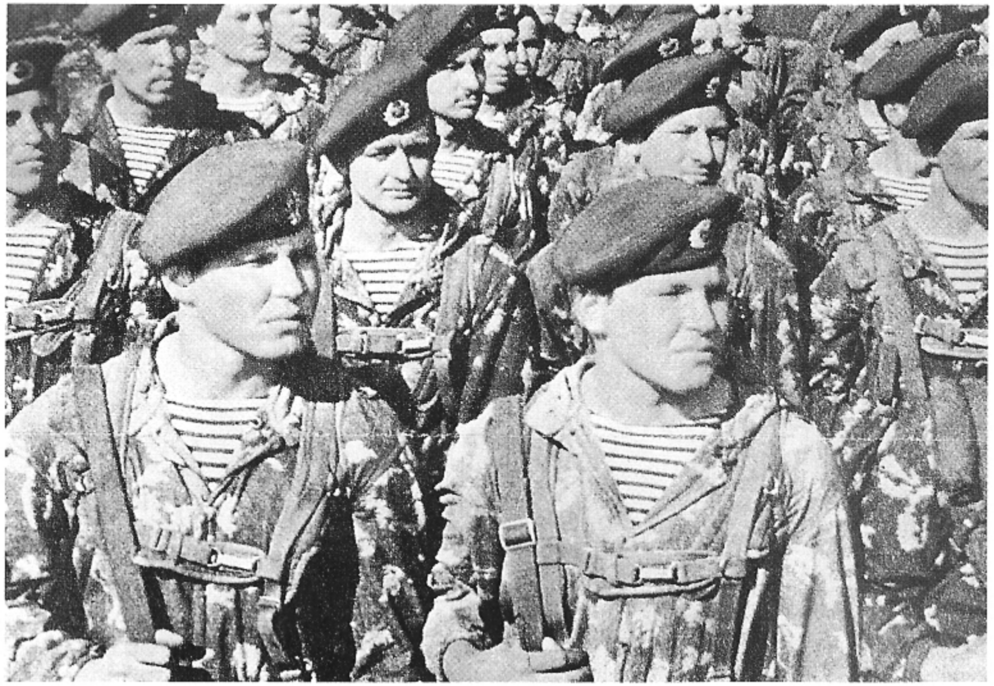
▲ Up-armored Soviet T-62E with applique "Horseshoe" armor on the turret, armored sideskirts, attachment points for mine rollers on the glacis front. T-62Es also have additional belly armor. (photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

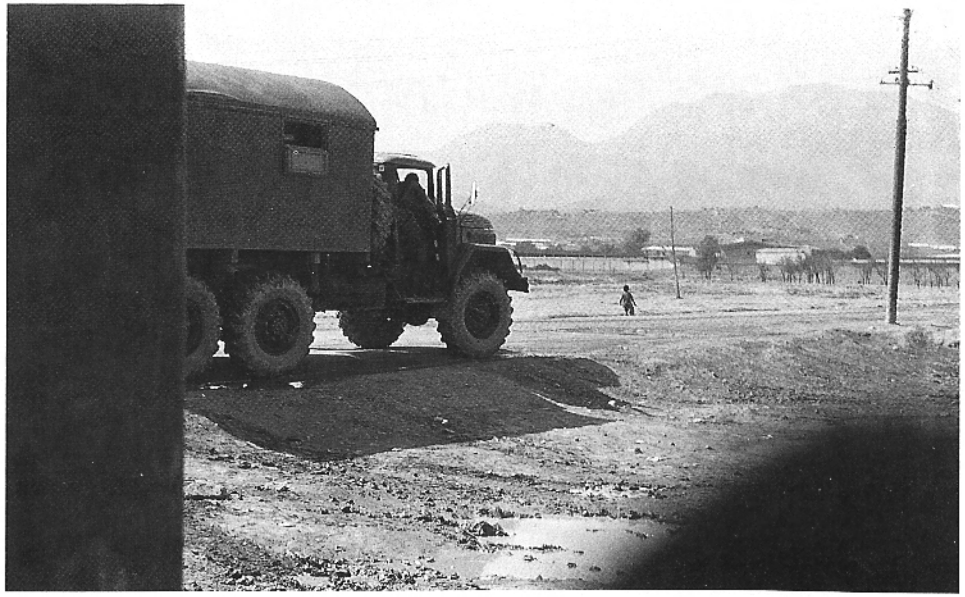
▼◀ Soviet paratroopers in formation. They wear standard KLMK camouflage overalls and their prized blue-striped t-shirts. Their blue berets would not be worn in combat. (photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

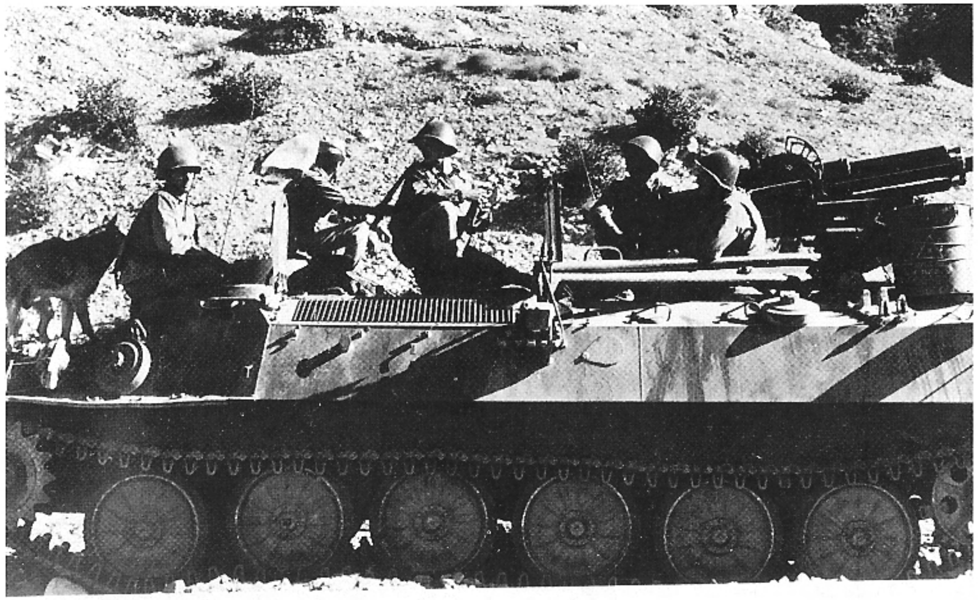


"553", an overall green BMP-2 with RPK applique armor (marked with a dragon's head outline) on its turret, as the Soviets withdraw from the Panjshir Valley in 1988. (photo: Afghan Media Resource Centre, Peshawar)







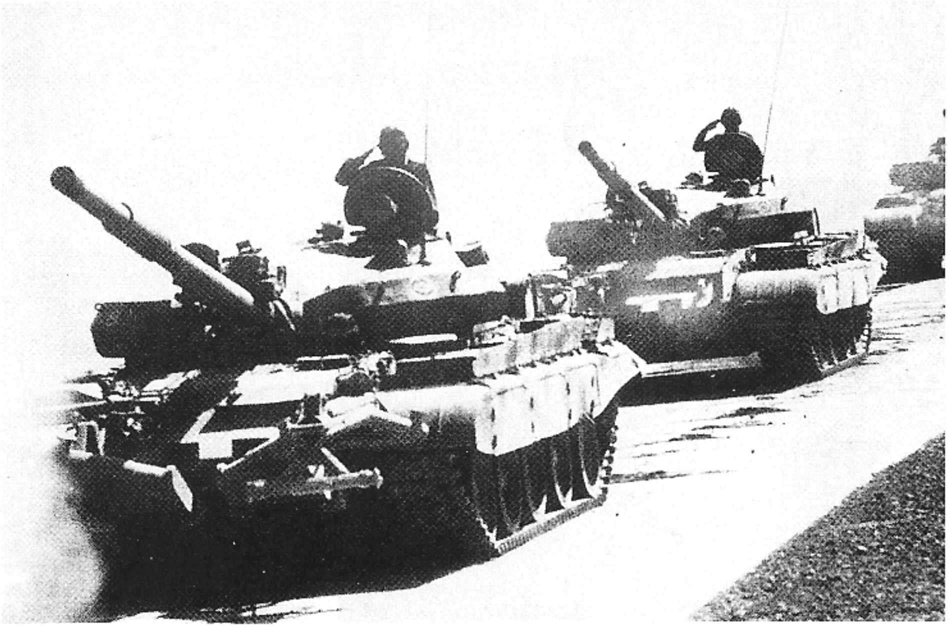


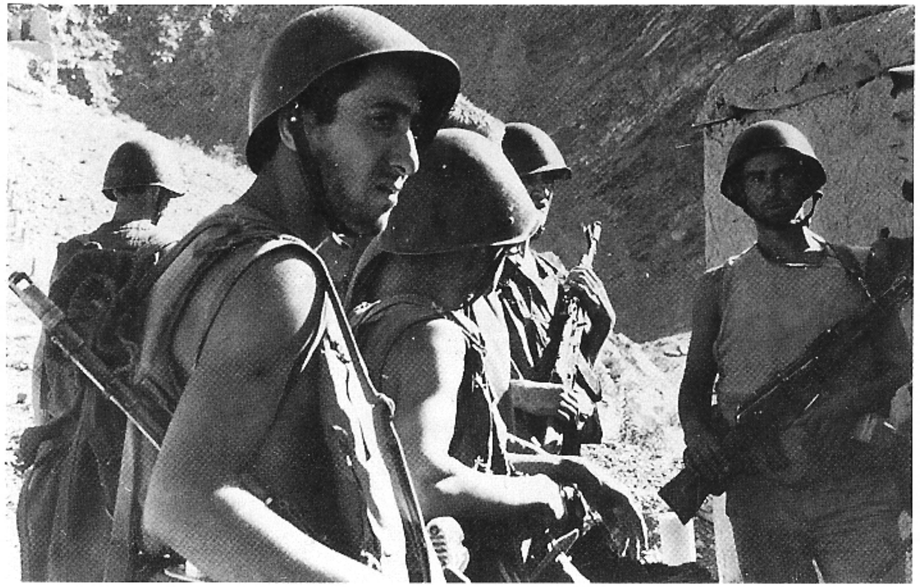
▶▲ This Soviet truck driver - standing in front of his URAL-375 - was carrying this photograph of himself while driving a mail truck out of convoy when he encountered the Afghan resistance.

▶ Up-armored T-62E MBTs leave Afghanistan in 1986. The lead tank has a KMT-5 mine plow. The second tank in the column shows the additional under-belly armor, that, in addition to the turret-face horseshoe armor and sideskirts, make up the T-62E package. (photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

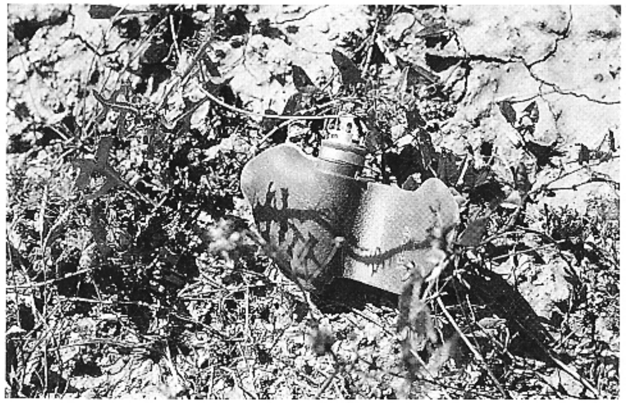
◀ The war in Afghanistan saw a revival of Soviet specialized mountain infantry, sub-units with needed equipment and training, such as this trooper wearing overalls and a camouflaged helmet. (photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

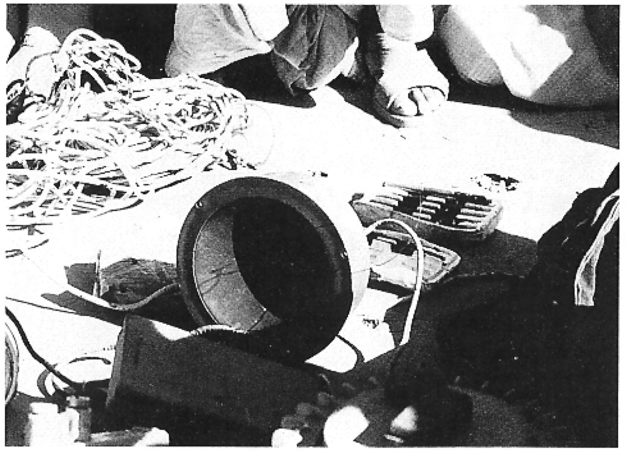
◀▼ A Soviet MT-LB APC moves unconcernedly past a resistance photographer along the Salalng highway in the summer of 1988. It is armed with a 2B9 Vasilyek 82mm automatic mortar on the rear decking. The mount is literally a "lash-up", with the Vailyek being a standard towed mount with its wheels removed and oil cans added for ballast. A mine-sniffing dog rides on the front of the vehicle. TM-62 anti-tank mines are stowed externally. (photo: AMRC)





A patrol of Soviet motorized riflemen receive orders in the last days before the Soviet evacuation of the Panjshir Valley in 1988. Notice the look of active intelligence on the face of the lad in the foreground, who appears unaware that a resistance photographer is taking his picture. The intense heat leads to the patrol wearing standard body armor without shirts. (photo: AMRC)

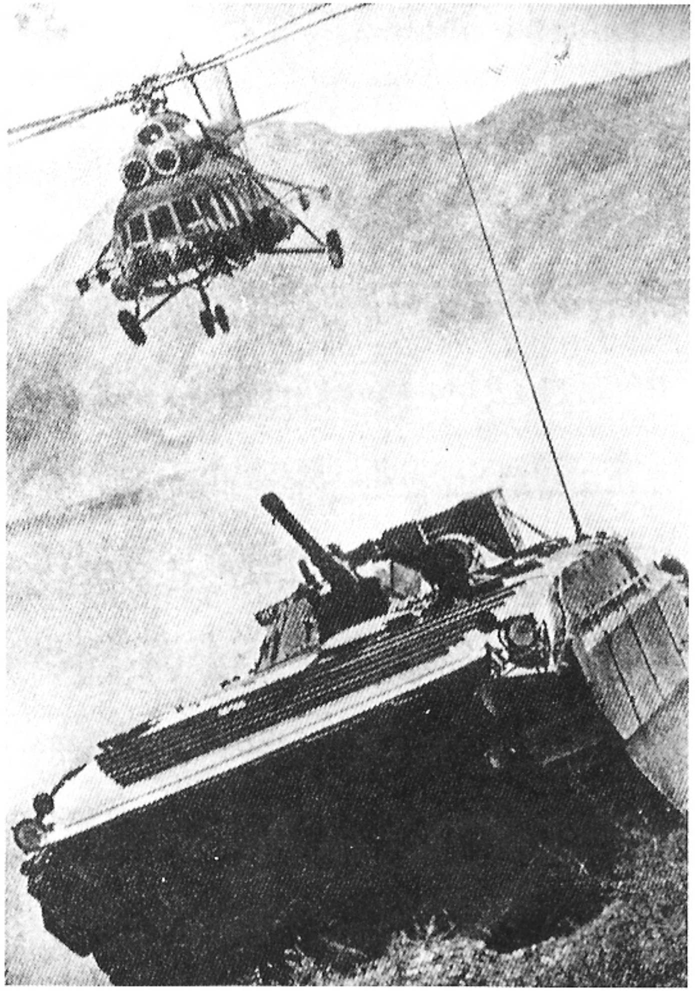


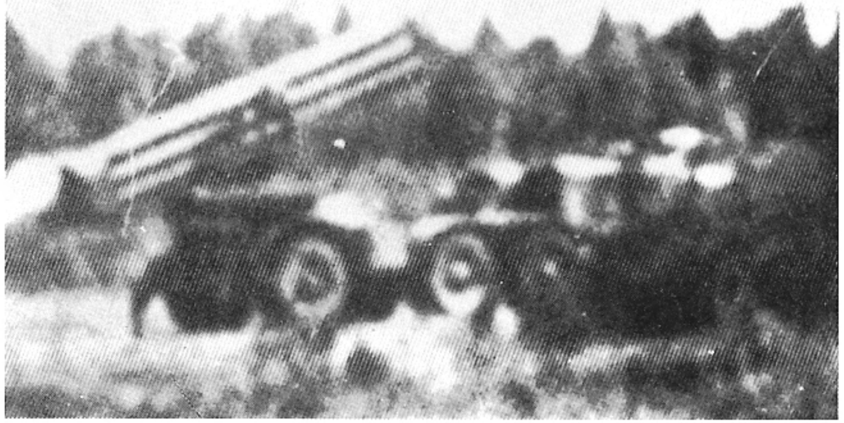


▶ Soviet combined arms in Afghanistan: an up-armored BMP-1E infantry fighting vehicle and an Mi-8 Hip-C helicopter. The large storage box on the rear decking was frequently used by BMPs in Afghanistan.

◀ A Soviet MON-100 directional fragmentation mine. The Soviets led vast numbers of mines behind - estimates range between four and thirty million - when they withdrew from Afghanistan. Clearing them, even after the shooting stops, will be a difficult task and may permanently impoverish Afghanistan. (photo: David Isby)

◀▲ The light green PFM-1 "butterfly" mine, though put down on the surface from aircraft, helicopters, or 220mm rockets, is often difficult to detect and serves to block night movement by the Afghan resistance. (photo: David Isby)

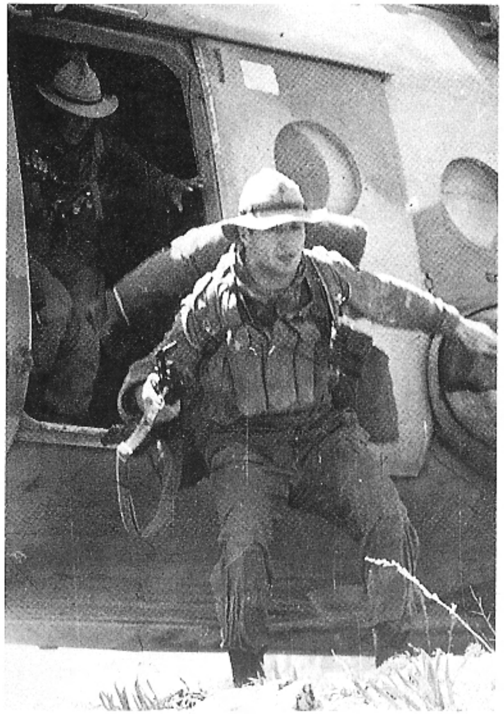




The BM-22 220mm multiple rocket launcher was in action in Afghanistan by 1985, but it became much more important after the introduction of the Stinger SAM in 1986 required MRLs to carry out missions previously performed by Hind attack helicopters.

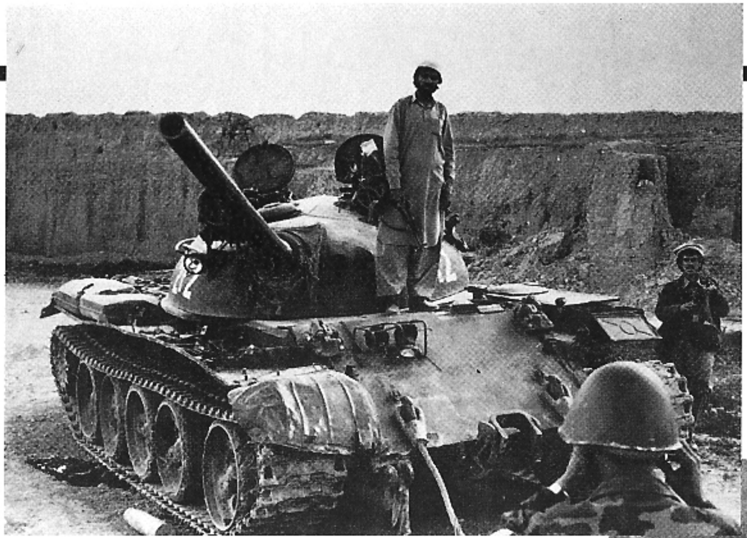
A Soviet motorized rifle subunit in Afghanistan, mounted in up-armored BMP-2Es (background), their personal equipment including Kalashnikov magazine chest packs.

BMP-2 "533" of the Kandahar-based 70th Motorized Rifle Brigade in the mid-1980s. By 1987-8, most had been up-armored.



Soviet troopers leave a hovering Mi-17 Hip-E, wearing airborne forces field uniform and a Kalashnikov magazine chest pack.

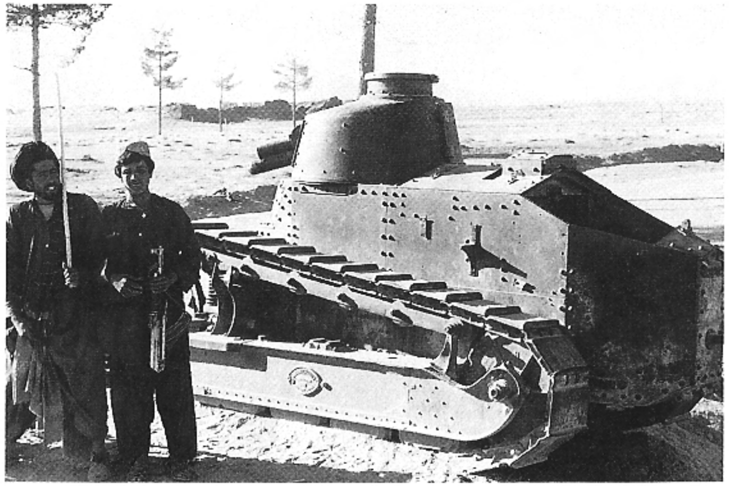
# ARMOR & ARTILLERY:



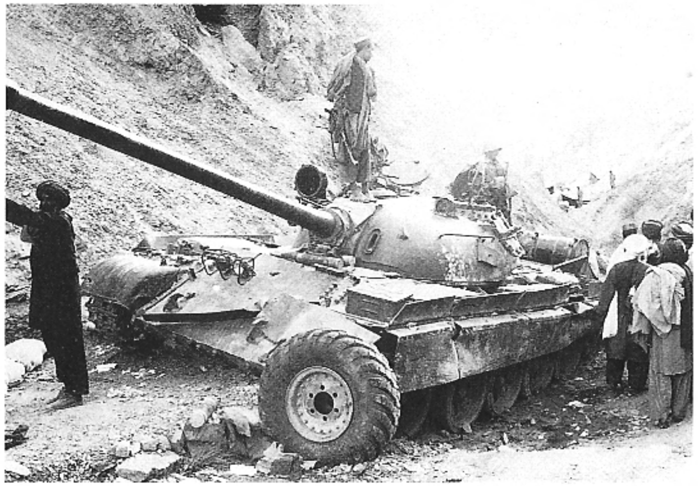
◀ This Kabul regime T-54A was abandoned at Jadji in 1988. The tow cables on the front were being attached to another tank when the platoon commander supervising the operation was sniped. The remaining personnel promptly bugged out. (photo: Al Bunyan News Service)

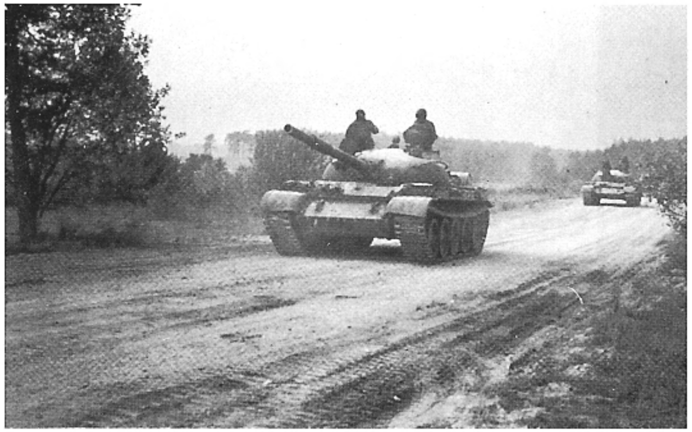
▼ This Soviet T-55A "119" was marked with the white "invasion cross" for its part in the December, 1979 invasion and was still marked with it when knocked out several months later in Paktia province. Only a few of the Soviet tanks in central and eastern Afghanistan in 1979-80 has this marking, although reportedly many in the west were so marked.

The first tank ever knocked out by Afghans - in 1919! This Renault FT-17 was used by the British Tank Corps in the Third Anglo-Afghan War and was outside the fortress of Spin Baldak, held by Kabul regime forces until 1988. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



This knocked-out Kabul regime T-55 has armored sideskirts, but the only additional armor on the turret is provided by extra track sections. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



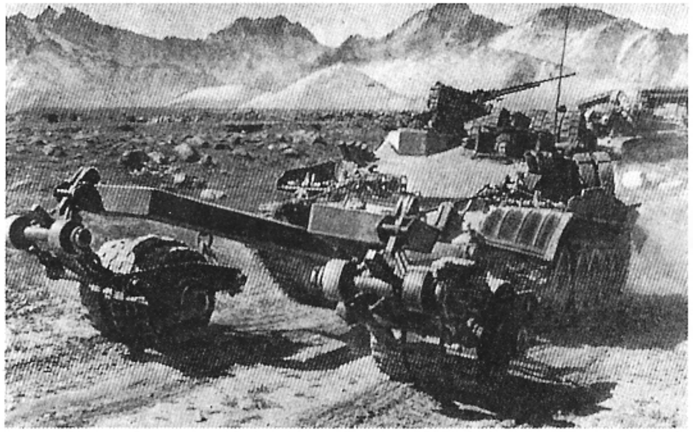


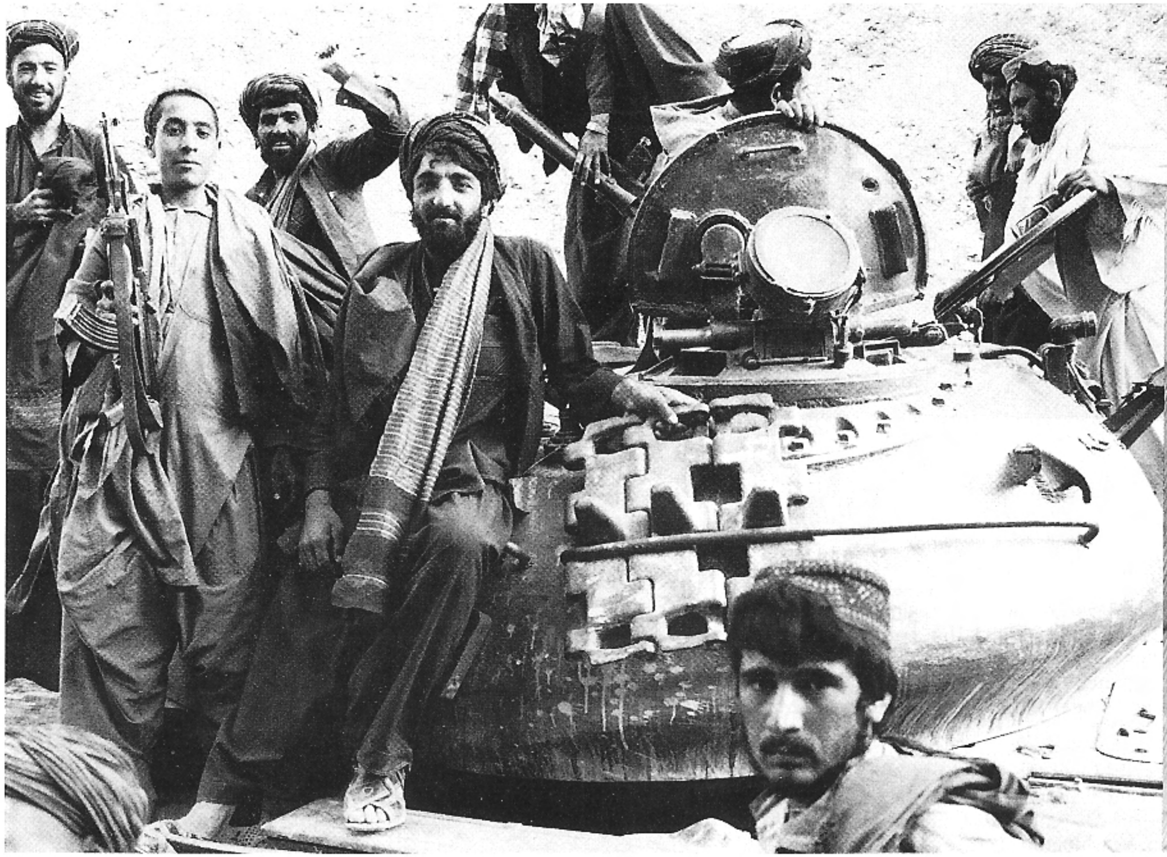
◀ T-62A main battle tank "323", finished in overall green color scheme, moves down a road near Kandahar. The commander's 12.7mm DShKM anti-aircraft machine gun is stowed in travelling position, indicating the crew is not expecting action. They are driving into an ambush that was sprung seconds after this photo was taken. (photo: National Islamic Front of Afghanistan)

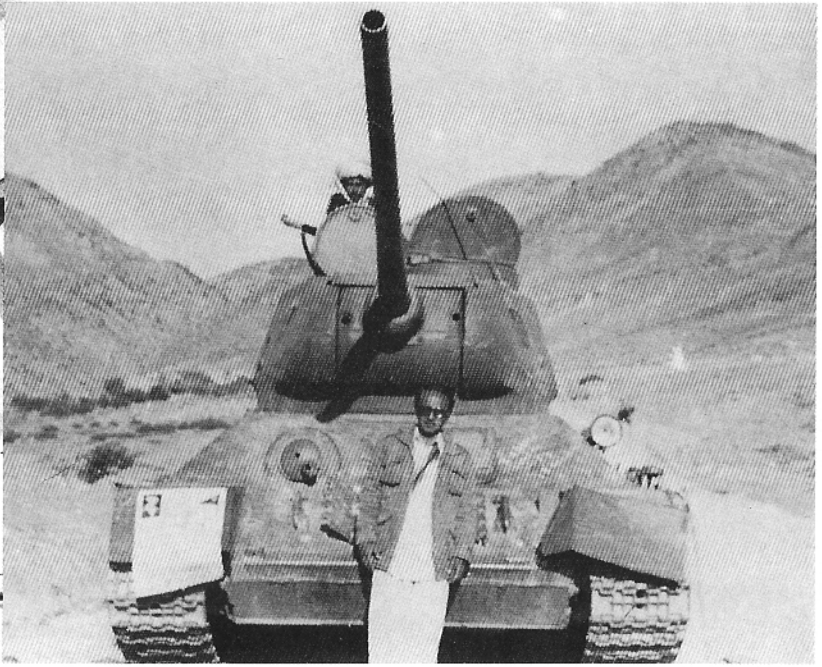
▶ This M-1987/1 Soviet mine-clearing vehicle in action in Afghanistan is an example of the increased emphasis the Soviets were forced to put on this and other engineer tasks as the war progressed.

▼ Afghans on a captured T-55A, showing the commander's OU-3GK white-light searchlight on the cupola and the method of stowing extra track links (which serve as applique armor) on the turret side. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

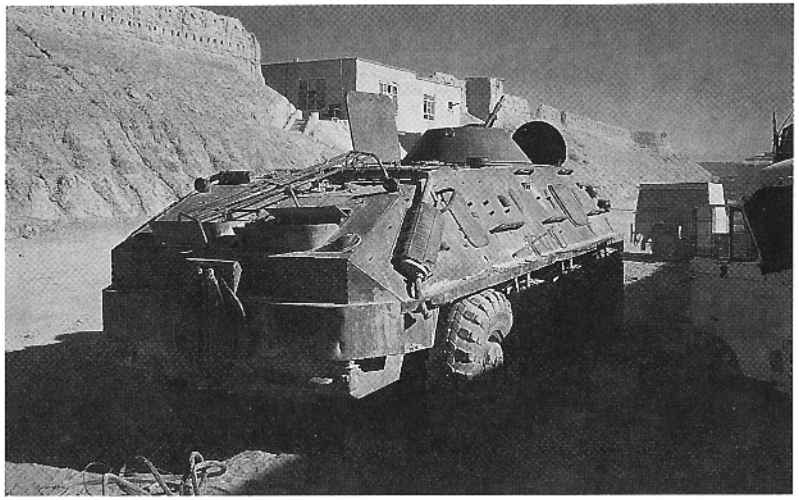
▼▶ This Kabul regime T-34/85 was part of a mechanized column defeated in Paktia in 17 May, 1979. (photo: Syed Hassan Gailani, who stands in front of the tank)

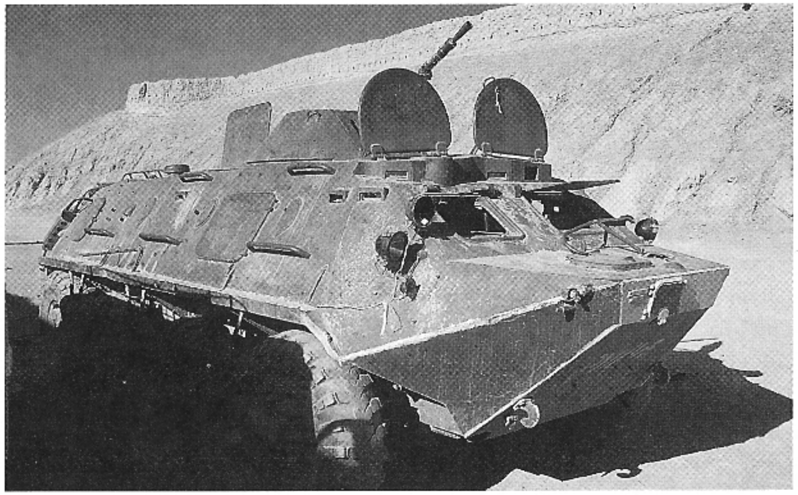




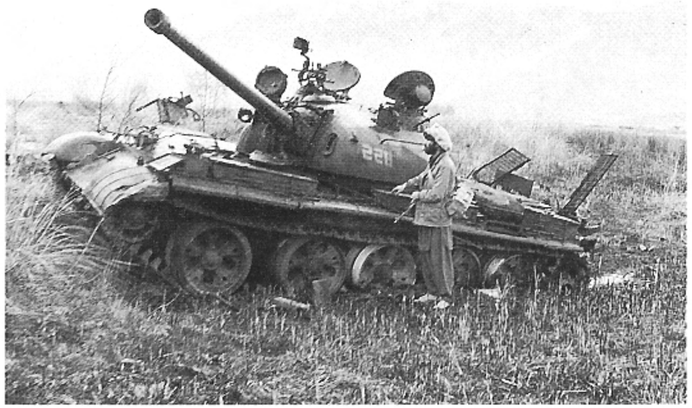


This knocked-out BTR-60PB of the Kabul regime Border Troops inside the citadel at Spin Boldak, 1988, is an early production version, as can be seen by the lack of a periscope on the turret roof. BTR-60s, while their crews disliked their light armor and gasoline engines, could run on one of their tow engine and with one or more wheels lost to mines. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



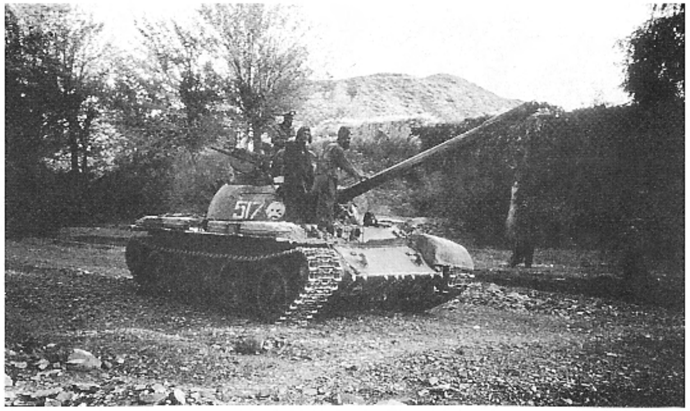


Captured BTR-60PB of the Kabul regime Border Troops. Formed during the war, they were one of the multiple armed forces intended to provide a political counterweight to the Army. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

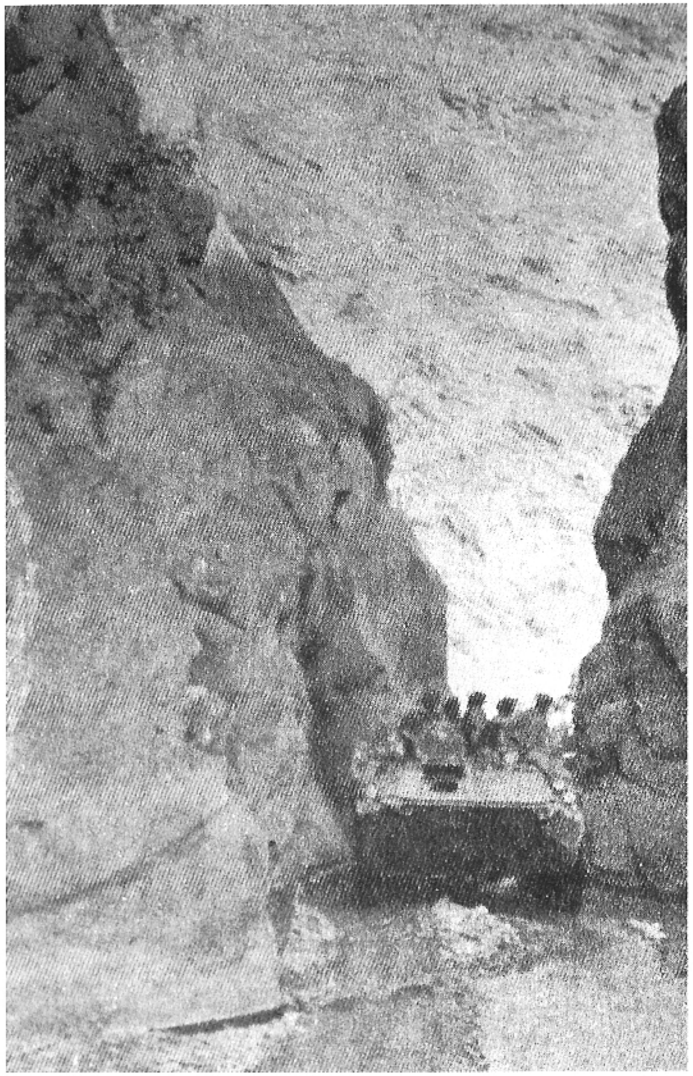


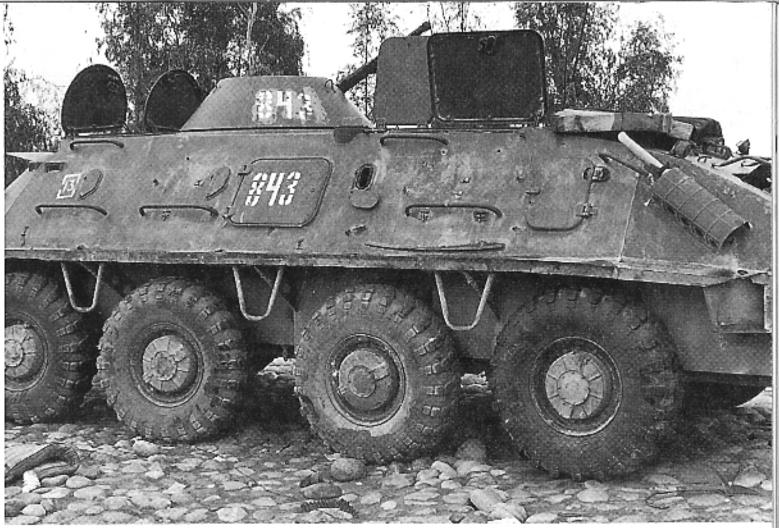
◀ "221", a T-54A of the Kabul regime army, knocked out near Jalalabad in 1989. This battle saw the first significant fighting of the war, with the Afghan resistance deploying a scratch ten-tank company that was defected by regime tanks near the airfield. (photo: Syed Mansur Shah)

▶ T-54A "517" of the Kabul regime army, captured by the resistance and used in the battle for Urgun in December, 1983. (photo: Committee for a Free Afghanistan, Washington, D.C.)

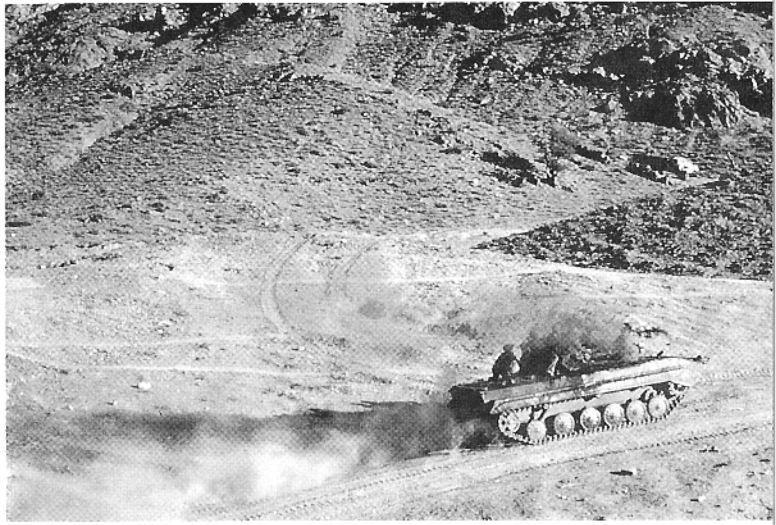


A Kabul regime BTR-60PB moves up a narrow side vally in a photograph taken by a soldier who later joined the Afghan resistance. (photo: National Islamic Front of Afghanistan)

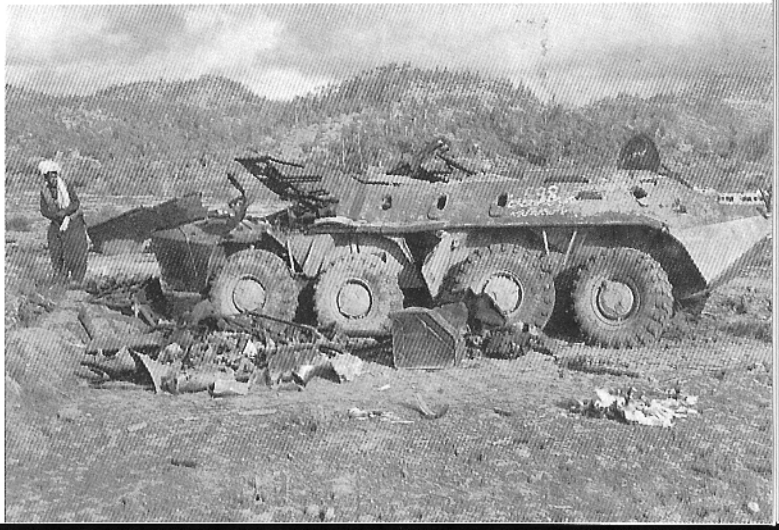




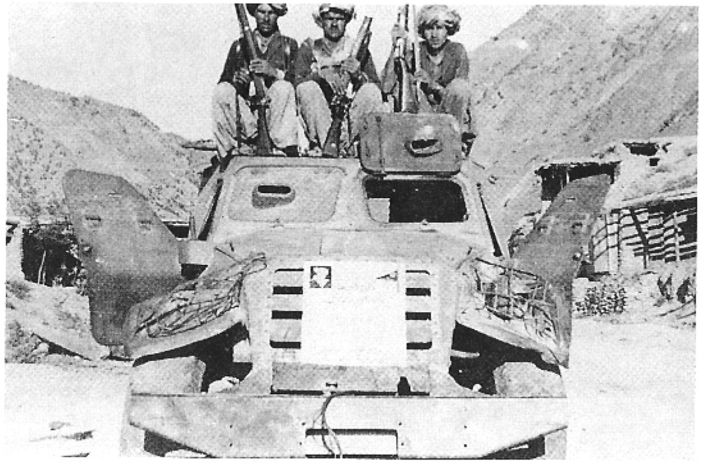
"843" an overall green BTR-60PB of the Kabul regime, captured at Samarkhel in 1989. (photo: Syed Mansur Shah)

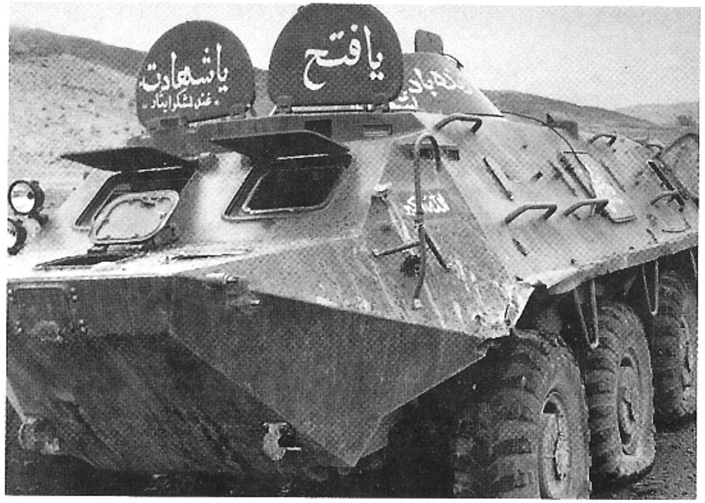


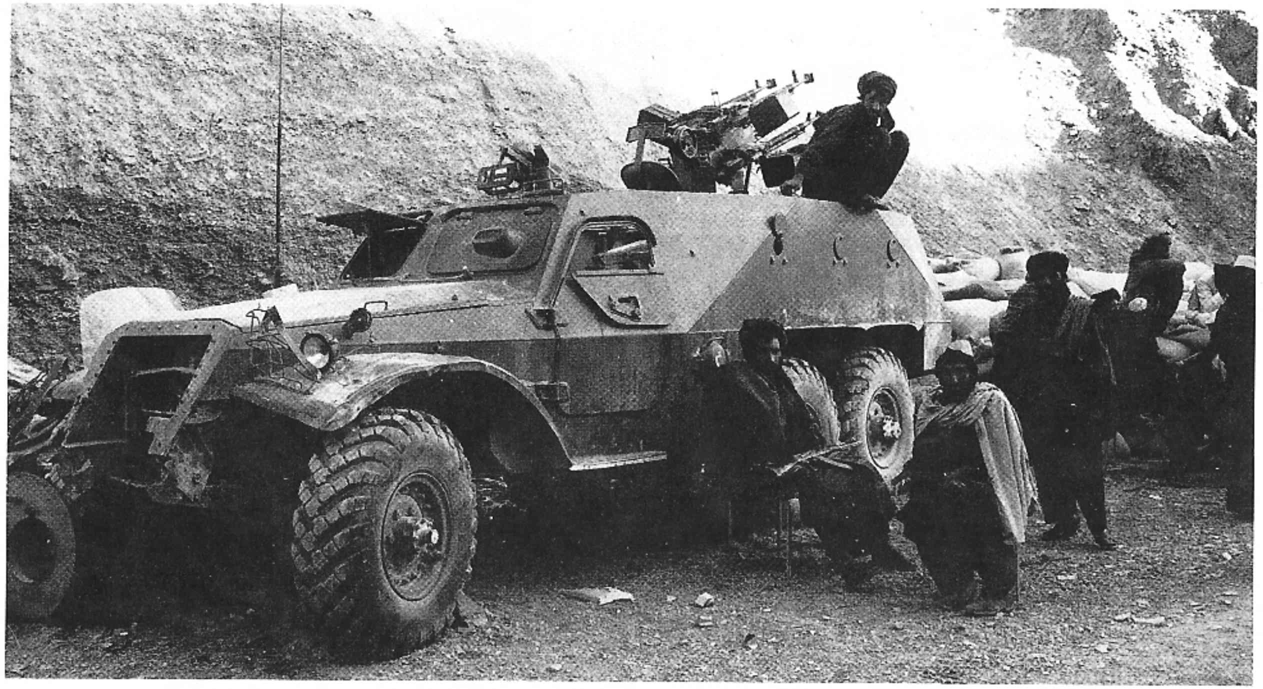
A captured ex-Kabul regime BMP-1 used by the resistance in Zabul province, painted in standard Soviet overall green. (photo: Ben Pendleton via Committee for a Free Afghanistan)



BTR-70 "598", finished in overall green, exploded after a direct hit - probably by an RPG-7 round - in the engine compartment in Jadji, Paktia province. The identity of the resistance group that knocked it out is proclaimed by graffitti, partially obscuring the hull number.







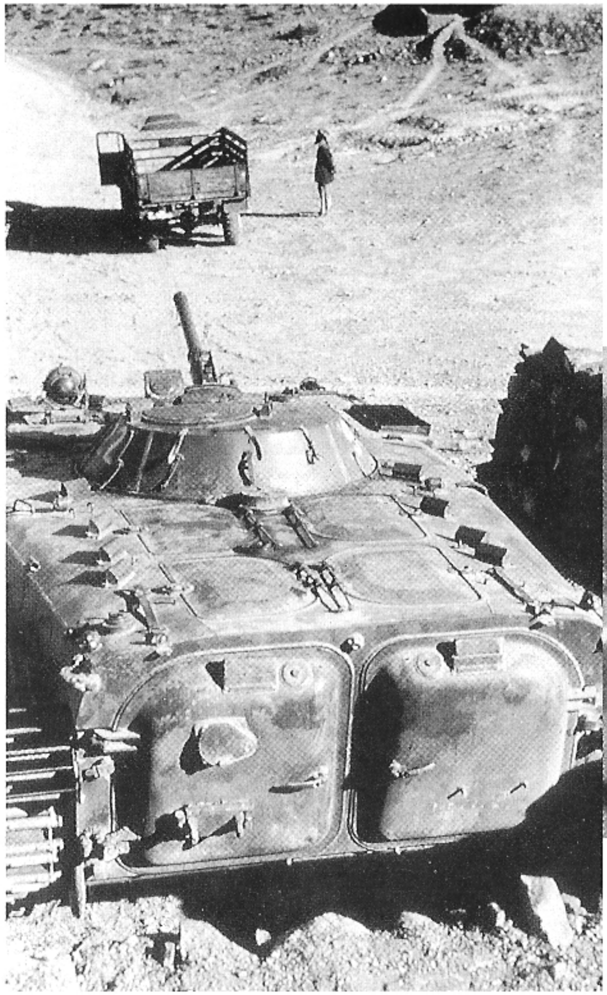
A captured Kabul regime BTR-152A mounting a quadruple 12.7mm DShKM HMG on a Czechoslovak-designed mount in the troop compartment. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

◀▲ This Kabul regime BTR-152A was part of a mechanized column defeated in Paktia province in July, 1979. (photo: National Islamic Front of Afghanistan)

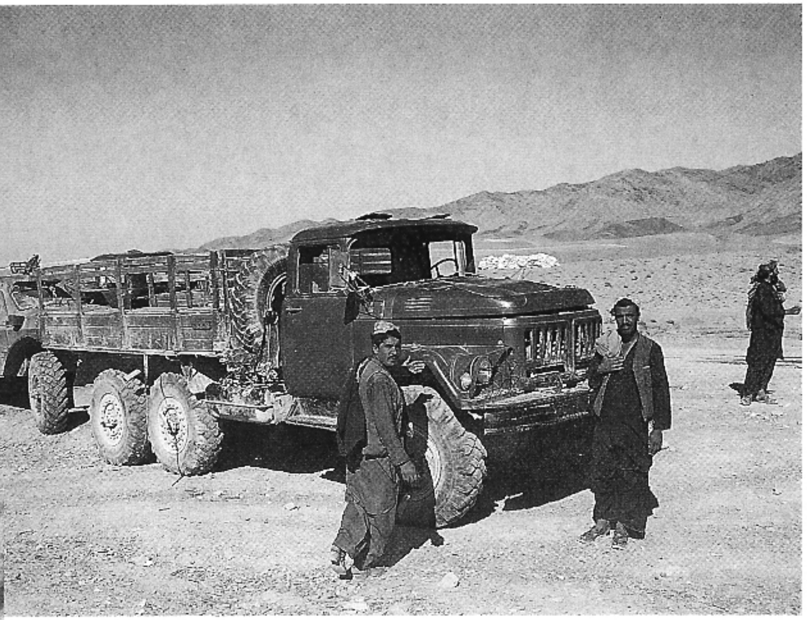
◀ A captured BTR-60PB, APC, decorated with Afghan graffitti over its overall green finish. (photo: Syed Mansur Shah)

▼ "323", an overall green Soviet turretless BMD-2 APC with a 30mm AGS-17 grenade launcher on the top decking, acting as part of the point detachment before a convoy. The troops ride on top when not expecting combat. (photo: Ben Pendleton via the Committee for a Free Afghanistan)

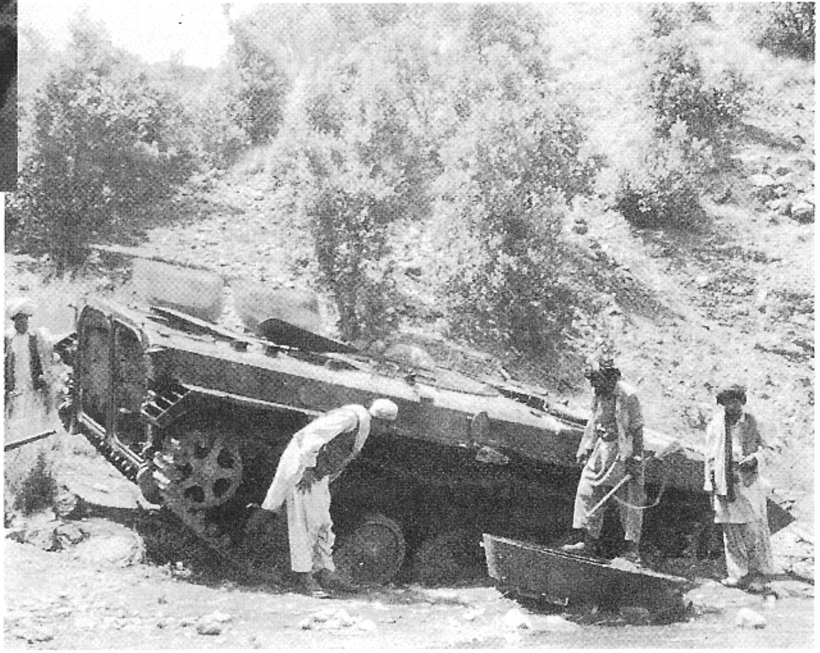
Former Kabul regime BMP-1 IFV used by the Afghan resistance in Zabul province. (photo: Ben Pendleton via Committee for a Free Afghanistan)



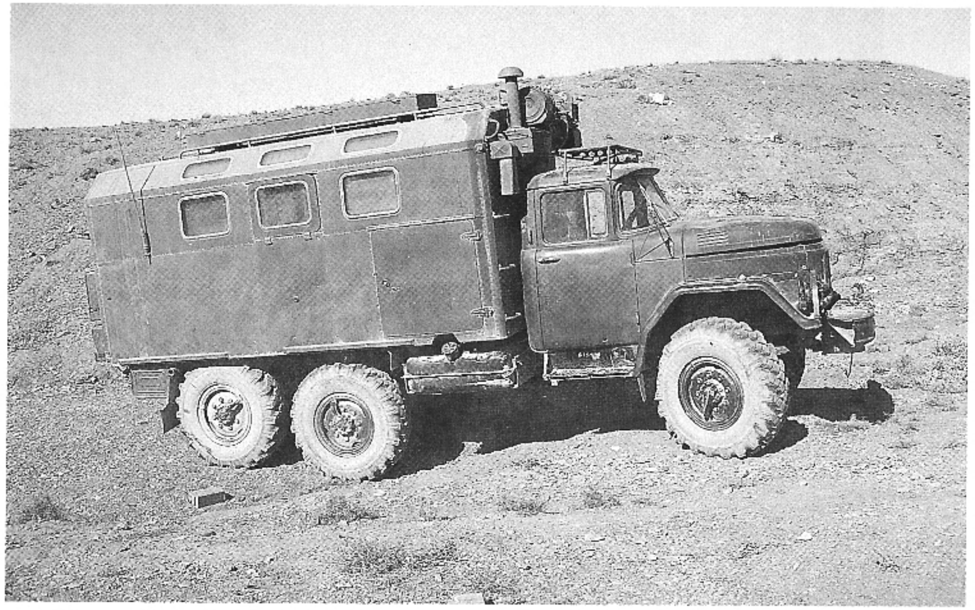
BMP-1 "540" on convoy escort duties, taken from the vehicle behind it. The large stowage box on the rear decking suggests that there is no squad in the troop compartment. (photo: Committee for a Free Afghanistan)



A captured Kabul regime BTR-152A APC put into service by the Afghan resistance. (photo: David Isby)



This BMP-1 - camouflaged with light stone over standard green - exploded when hit by an RPG-7. Because of the fuel and ammunition packed inside, a relatively small vehicle, BMPs were prone to explode. (photo: Committee for a Free Afghanistan)

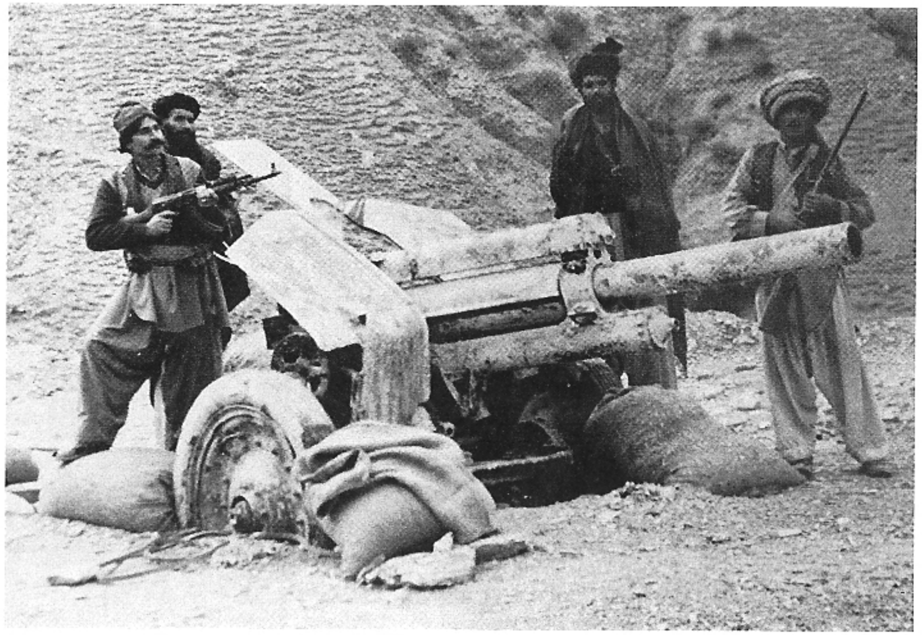


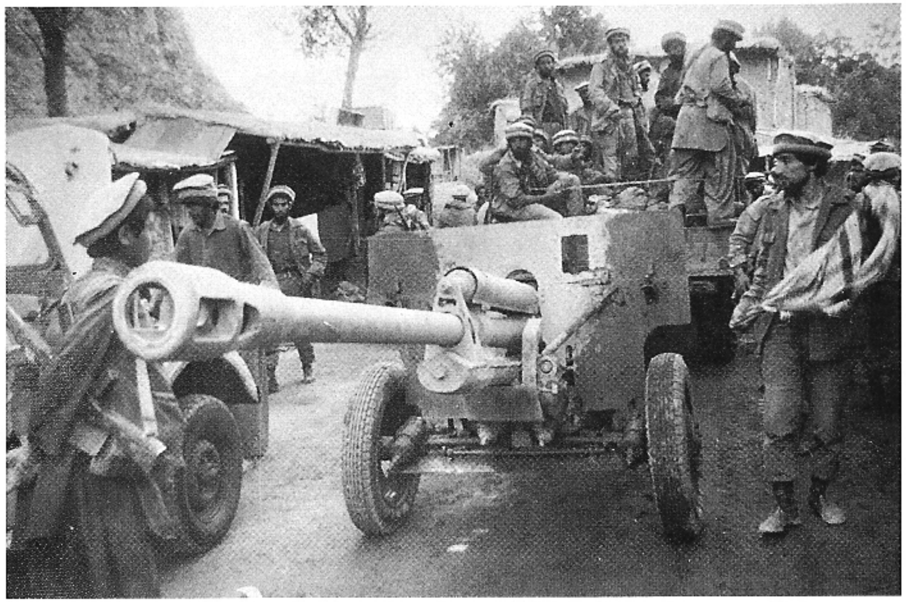
M25-I-391
M25-I

◀ Zil-131 command van captured by the Afghan resistance. (photo: David Isby)

▶ The favorite export of the People's Republic of China - boxes of 107mm Type 63 rockets. After use, they will be used for fuel or construction material. (photo: David Isby)

▼ The Afghan resistance used this captured 122mm M-30 howitzer. (photo: National Islamic Front of Afghanistan)

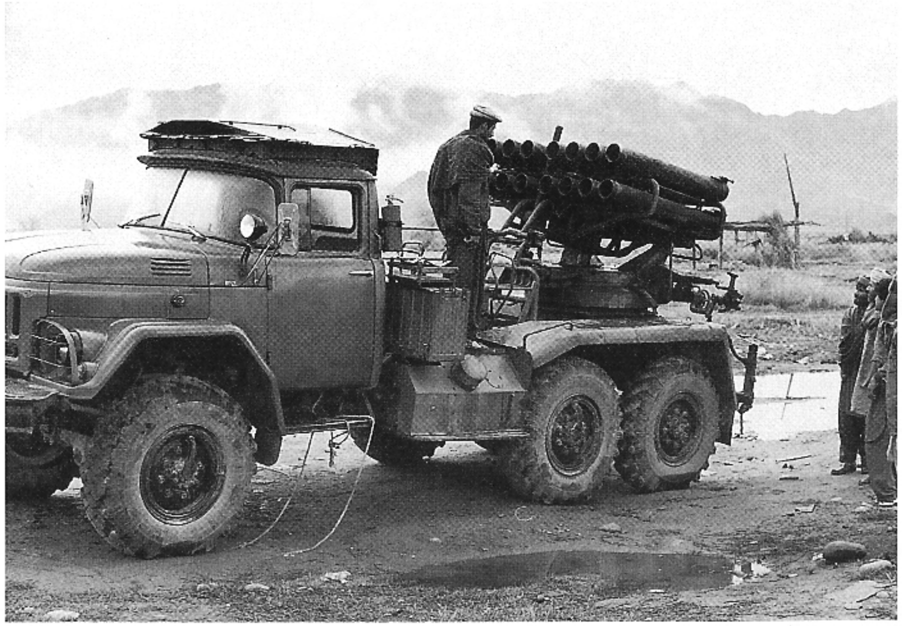


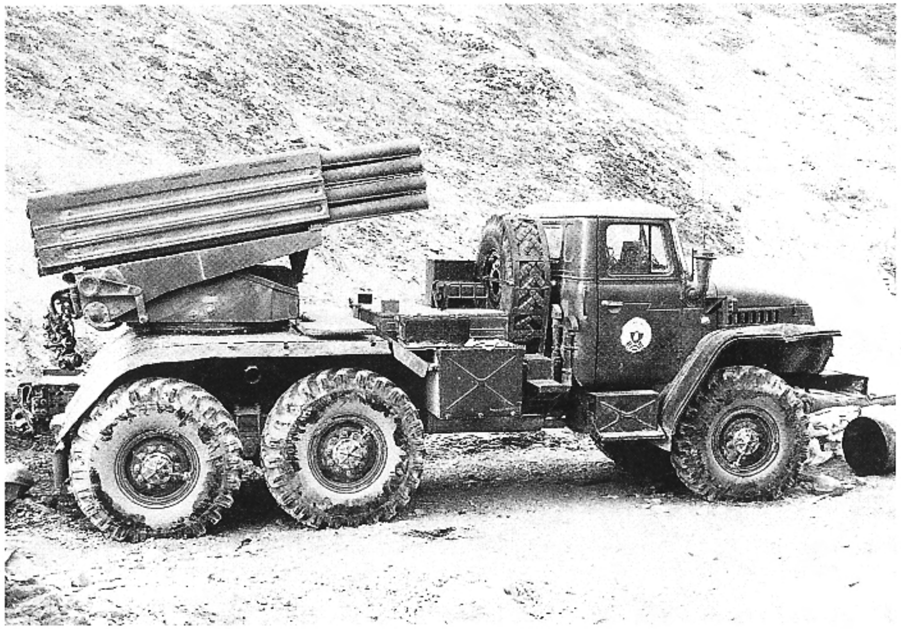


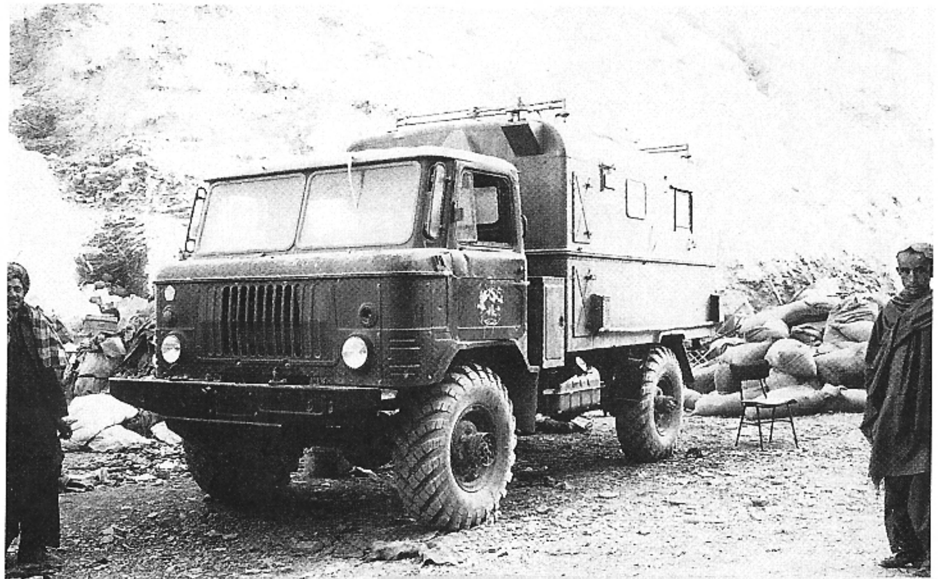
▲ The spoils of victory - a captured M-1942 76.2mm field gun is towed away from Koran va Monjan under the eyes of the victorious commander Ahmad Shah Massoud (right). (photo: Abdul Hafiz, Afghan Media Resource Centre, Peshawar)

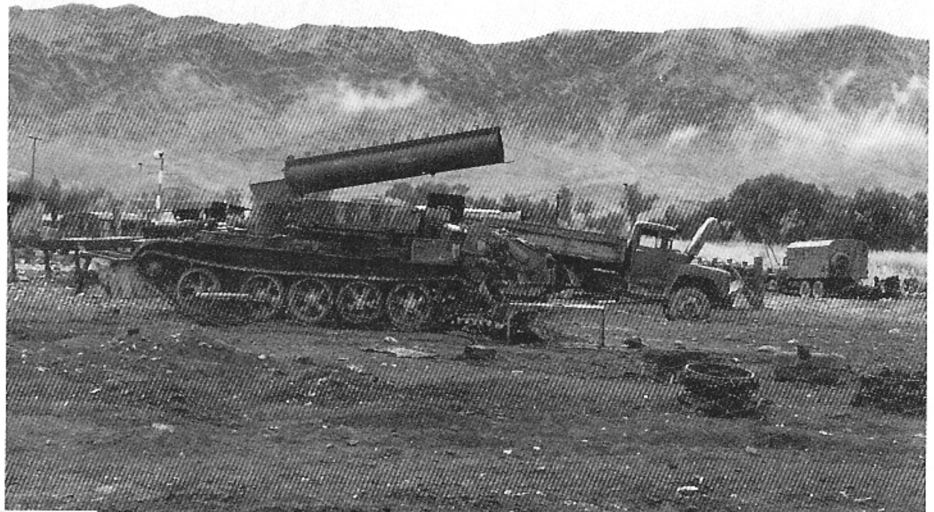
◀ 16-tube BM-14 140mm multiple rocket launchers - such as this unmarked example captured at Samarkhel in 1989 - were relatively rare in Afghanistan. (photo: Syed Mansur Shah)

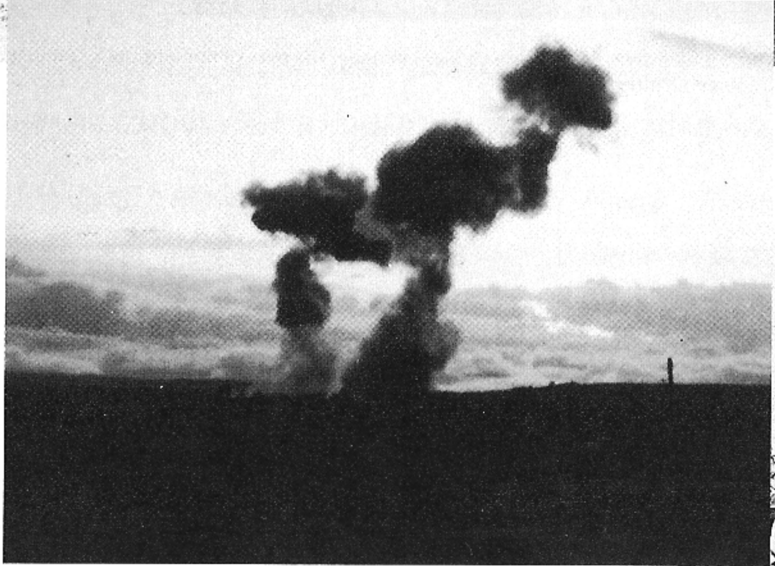
▶ Captured Kabul regime BM-21 122mm multiple rocket launcher, in late-war Kabul regime markings. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



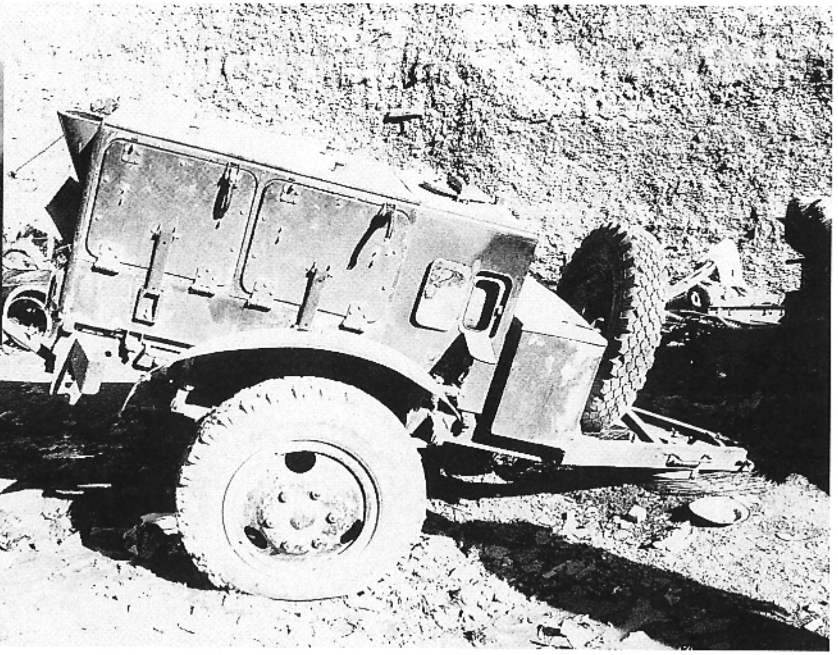








A frequent sight in Afghanistan in 1988-9: the explosion of a Soviet fired SS-1 Scud surface-to-surface missile. (photo: Syed Mansur Shah)



▶ Vital to any army, this Soviet-built field kitchen was captured by the Afghans. (photo: David Isby)

▶▲ A captured T-54-T armored recovery vehicle at Samarkhel, 1979, displays its partially erected large snorkel used for amphibious recovery operations. (photo: Syed Mansur Shah)

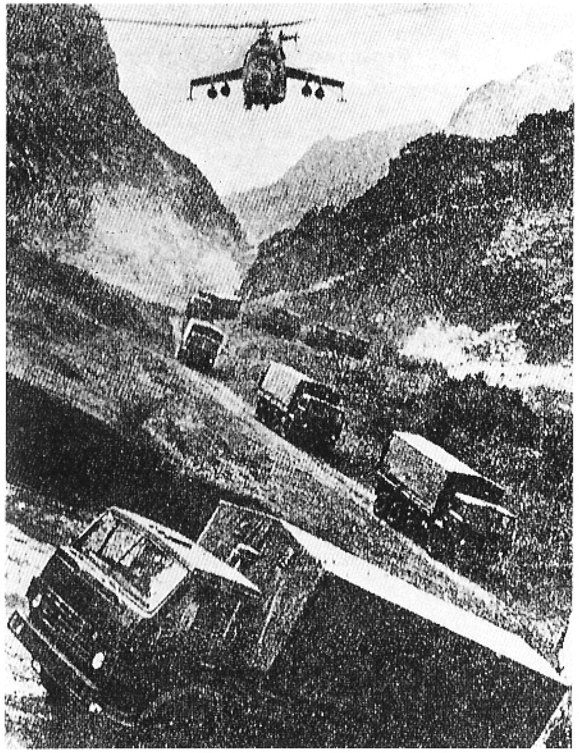
▲ Captured GAZ-66 command van of the Kabul regime forces. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

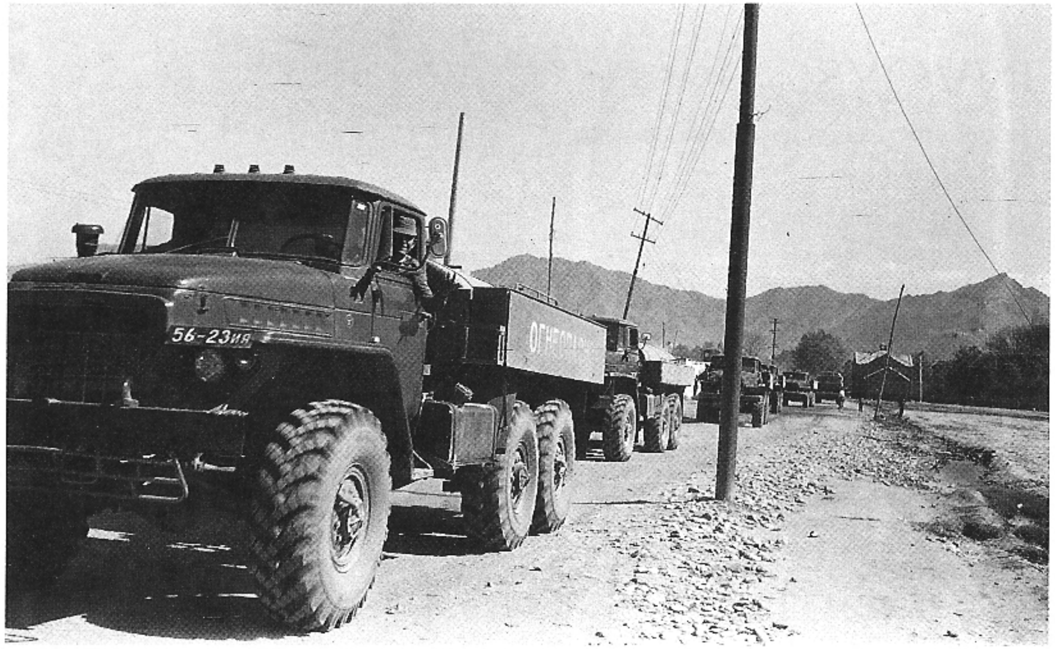
# ROAD WAR - TRUCKS AND CONVOYS:

▼▶ A convoy of Soviet KAMAZ-4320 trucks with an element of Mi-24 Hind-D/E helicopter gunships flying close support prior to 1986. After the introduction of the Stinger SAM, the helicopters were fitted with infrared countermeasures and stopped making themselves such good targets.

▶ MAZ-500 tanker truck burning after an ambush. (photo: Committee for a Free Afghanistan)

▼ A Soviet convoy, 1987, with URAL-375 trucks being escorted by a BTR-70 APC. The URAL-375 was the standard tactical truck throughout the war.

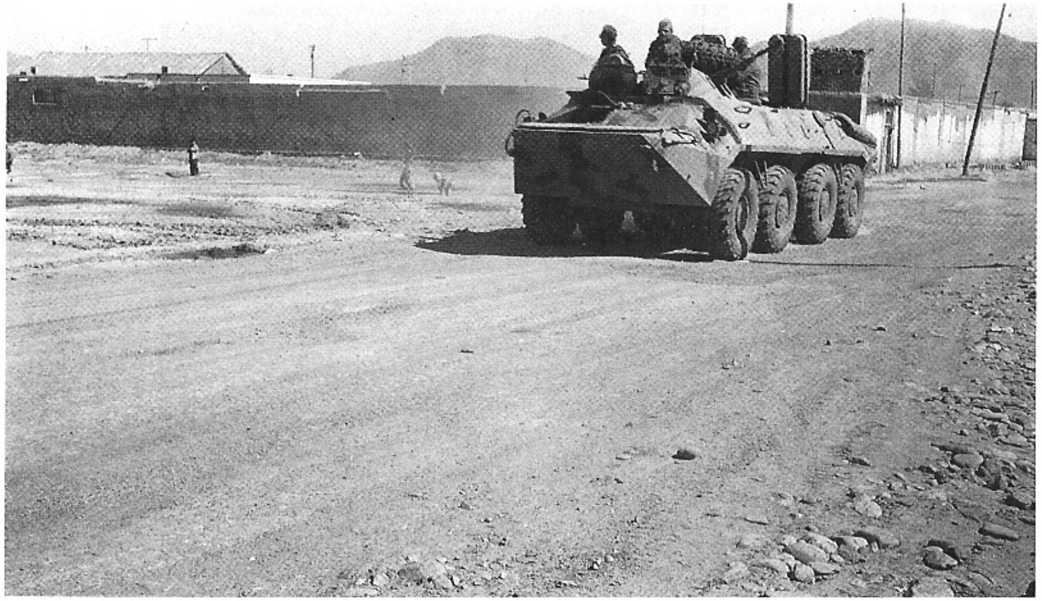


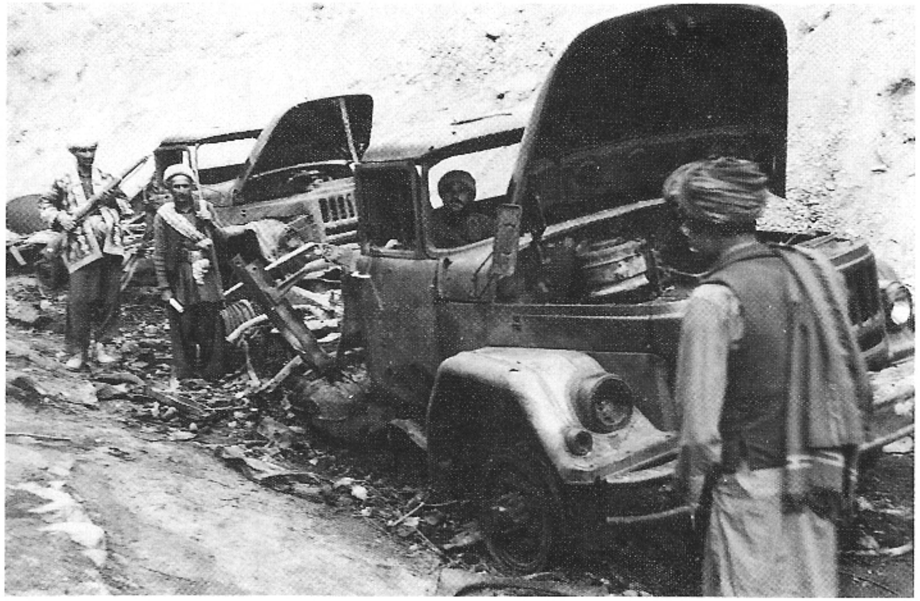


▲ A Soviet fuel convoy of URAL-375 tanker trucks arrive in Kabul in 1987.

▶ Remains of a knocked-out convoy - a frequent sight in Afghanistan. (photo: Committee for a Free Afghanistan)

◀ A green-and-stone grey camouflaged Soviet BTR-70 on convoy escort duty. The spare tire mounted on the turret roof (offset to avoid obscuring the roof periscope) was common in Afghanistan. The crew - wearing combat caps - sit on the outside, a sign combat is not anticipated.



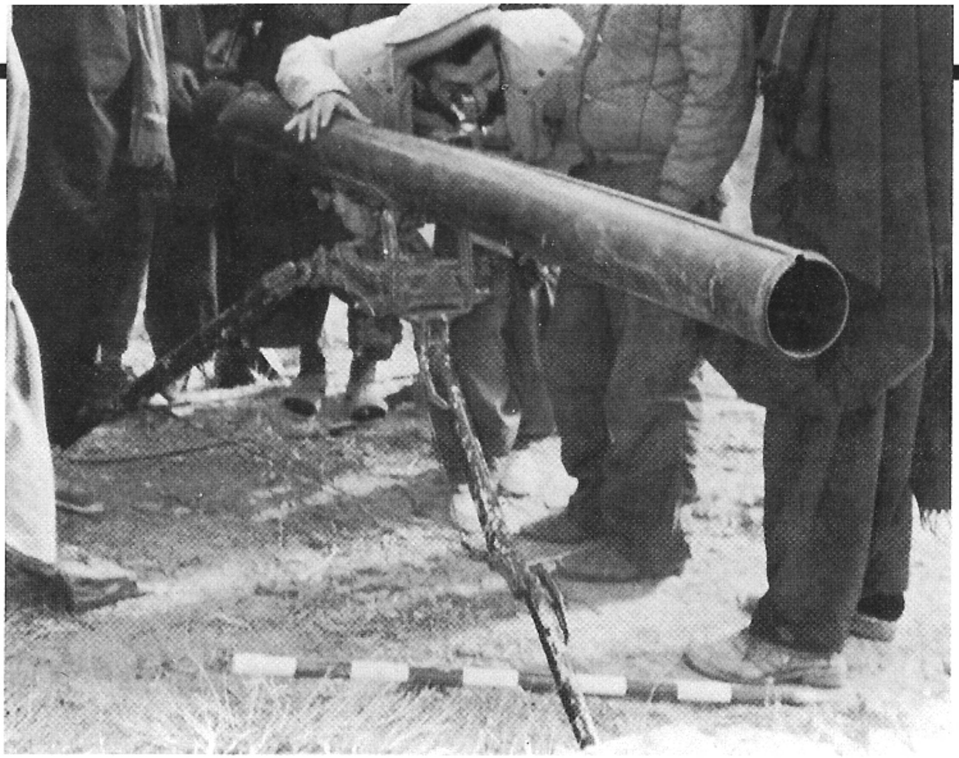


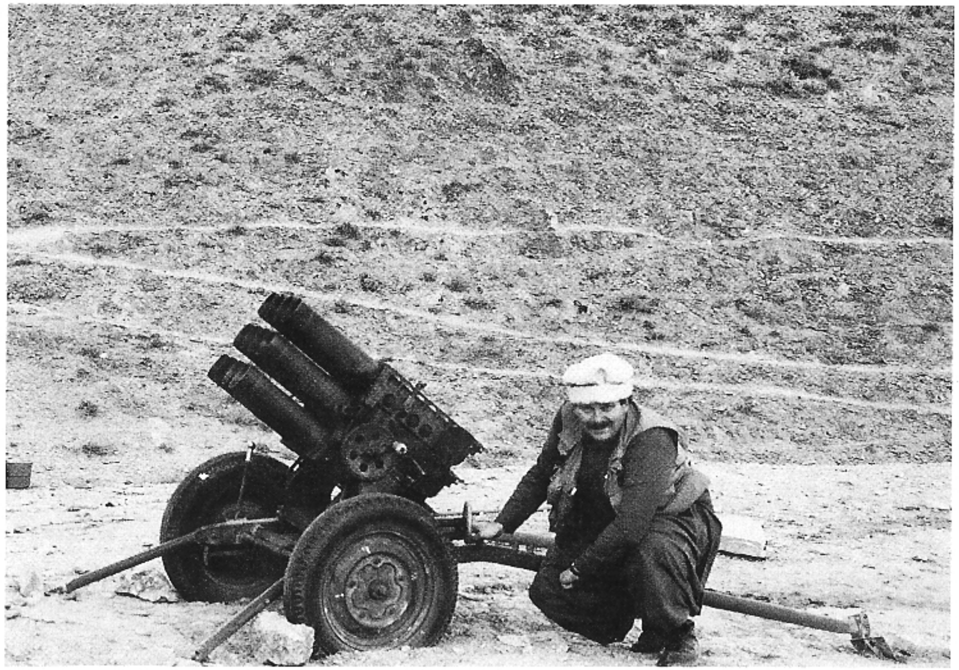
# THE ROCKET WAR:

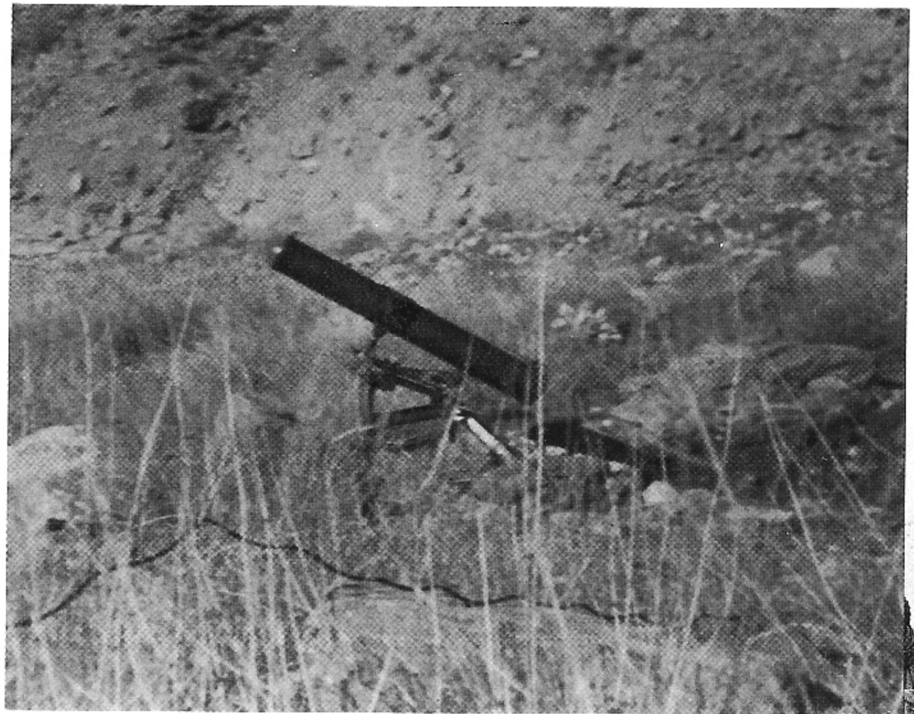
▶▼ The author with a Chinese-designed 107mm Type 63 12-barrel multiple rocket launcher, nicknamed "BM-12" by the Afghans. (photo: David Isby)

▼ A 122mm rocket is fired from an improvized mount. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

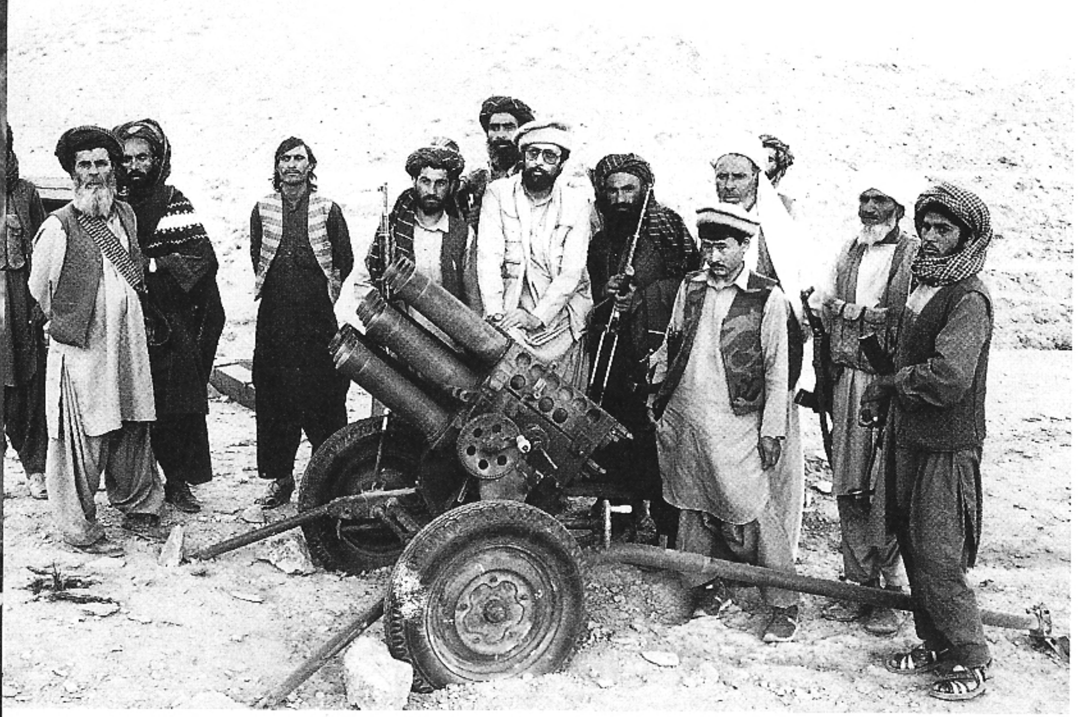
▶ The Afghan resistance uses single-tude 122mm rocket launchers, either Soviet or Egyptian made versions. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



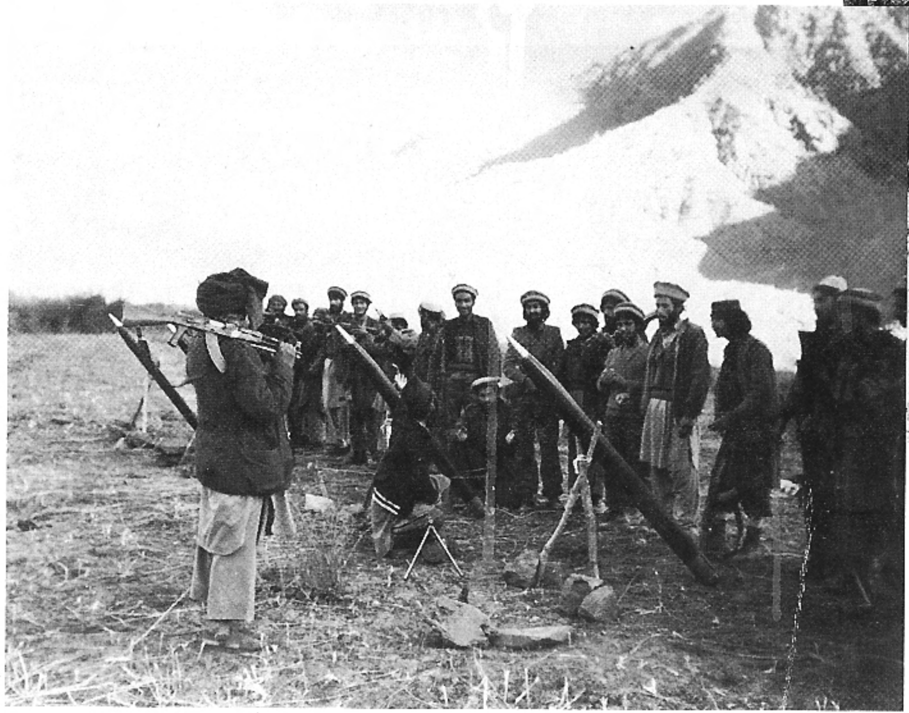




Single-tube Chinese-made 107mm Type 63 rocket launchers are frequently fired by the Afghan resistance from cover by use of an electrical firing cable. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



A group of Afghan mujahideen pose with their 107mm multiple rocket launcher. (photo: David Isby)



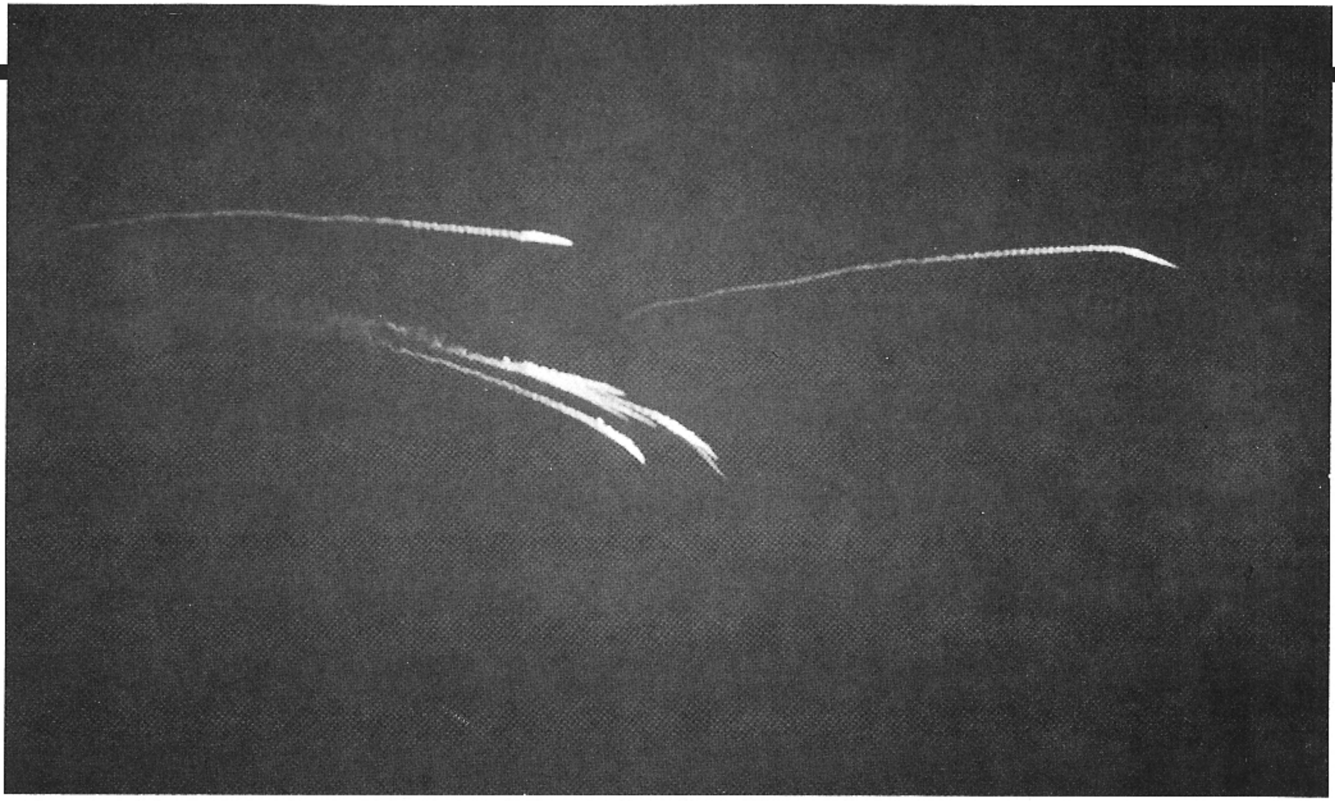
Three 122mm rockets are prepared for firing without the benefit of launch tubes, using instead improvized mounts. The rockets are the same as used in Soviet-made BM-21 122mm MRLs. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

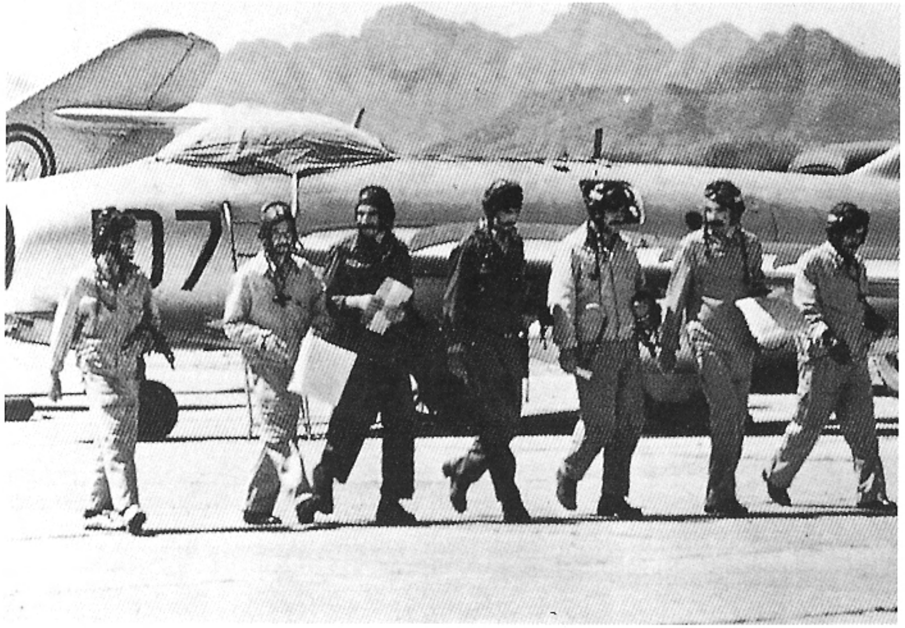
# THE AIR WAR:

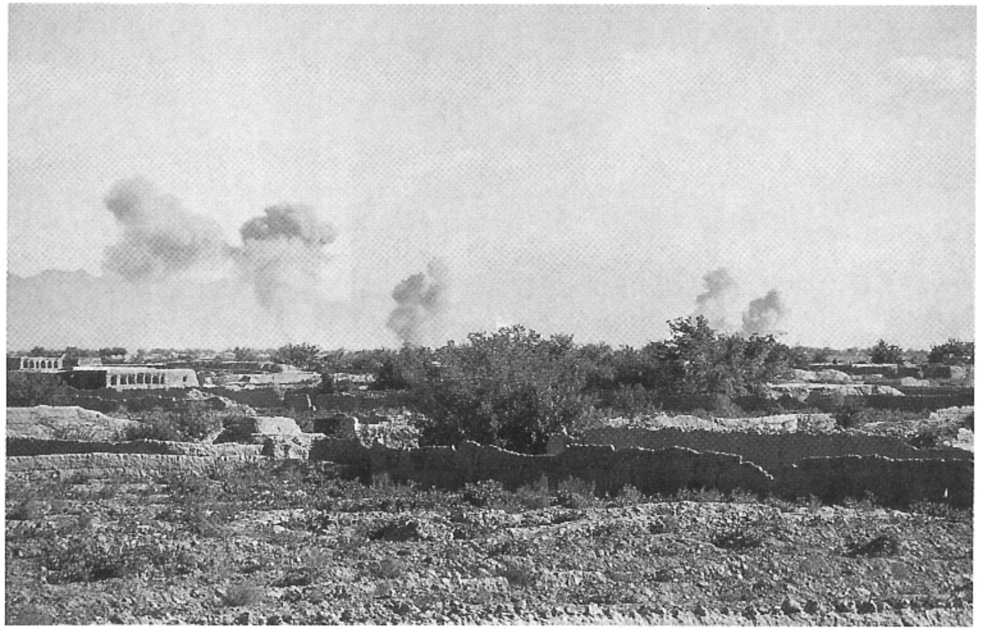
▶ An air attack near Kandahar, 1987. The village it was targeted against had been largely de-populated of civilians for years, the population refugees in Pakistan or cities in Afghanistan. Soviet tactics emphasized firepower - provided by airstrikes or artillery - over maneuver. (photo: Otilie English)

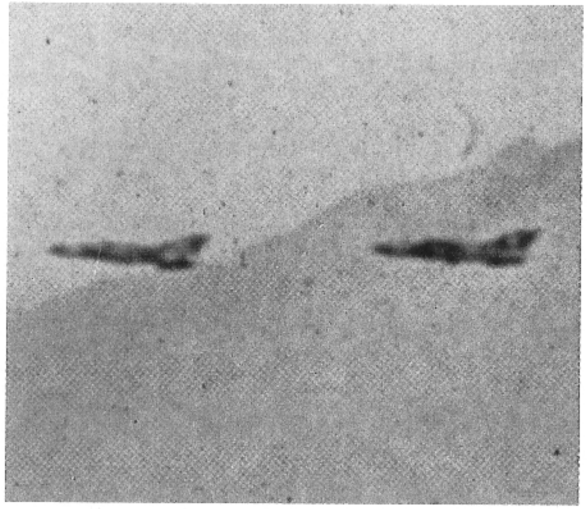
◀ Afghan aircrew pose in front of "black 107", an all-natural metal (without an anti-glare panel) MIG-17 Fresco-C of the Kabul regime Air and Air Defense Force. The post-Soviet invasion rounder has a red star and middle ring, the inner ring being green and the outer ring black, with a white background. The red appears weathered.

▲ A common sight in Afghanistan. Automatic flare ejectors are fitted in all types of Soviet and Kabul regime aircrafts. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



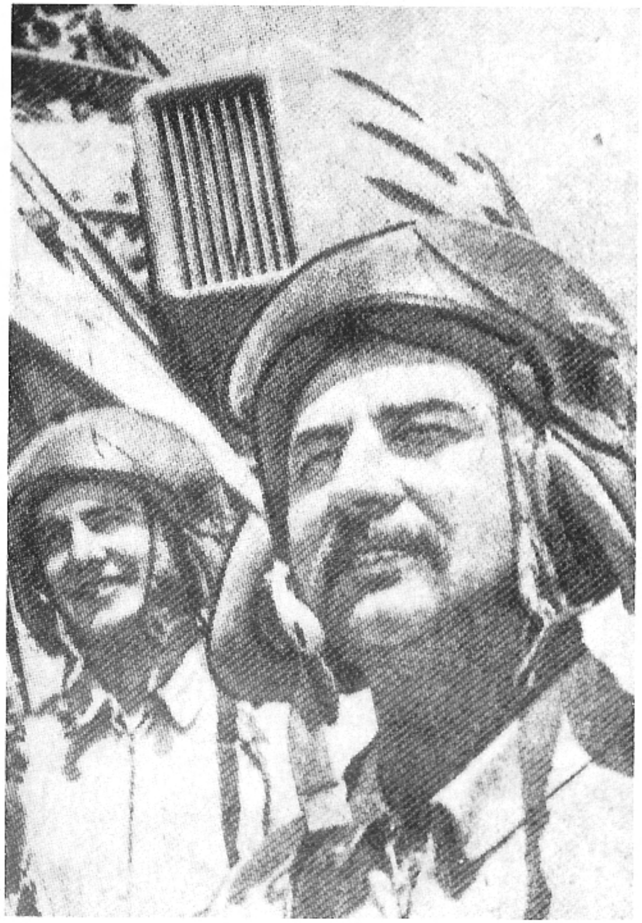


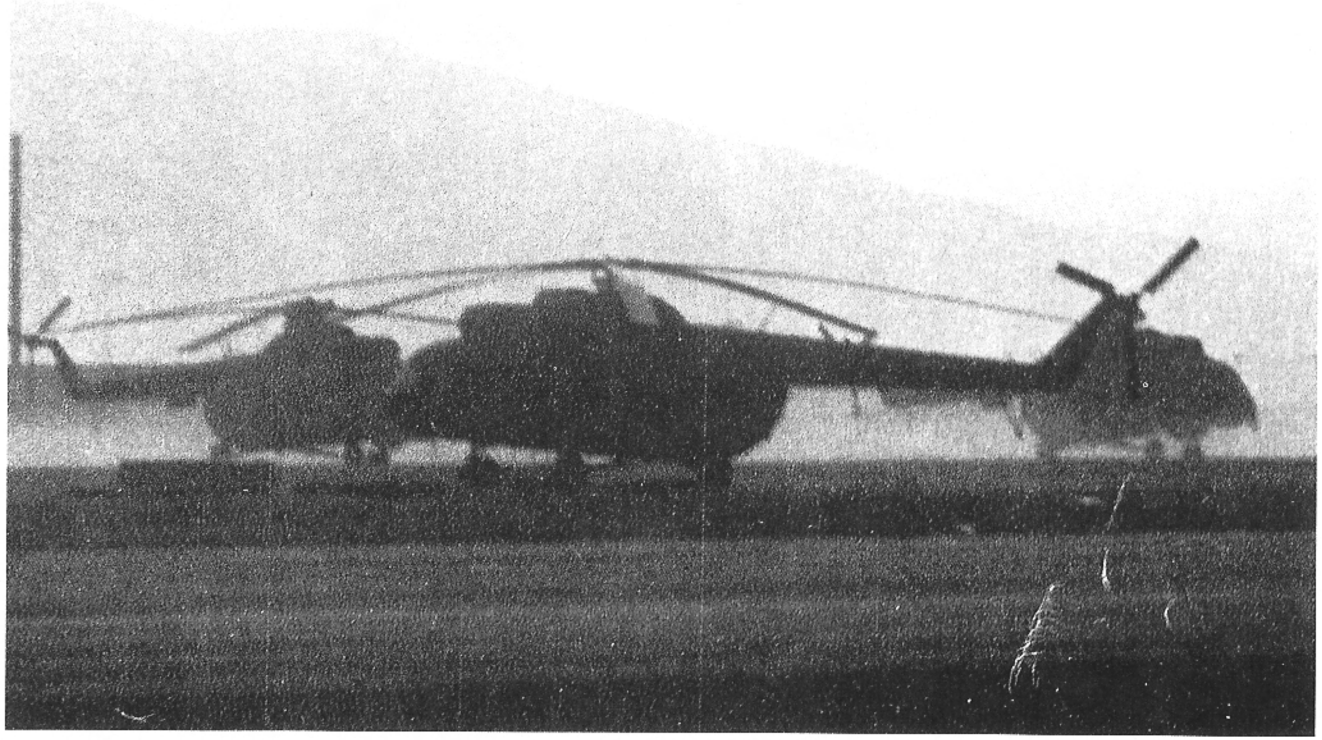




◀ Two MIG-21 Fishbeds, probably on a reconnaissance mission, moving low and fast in the Jadji area, Paktia province, January 1985. These missions had to be flown from above 20,000 feet when the Stinger was introduced. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

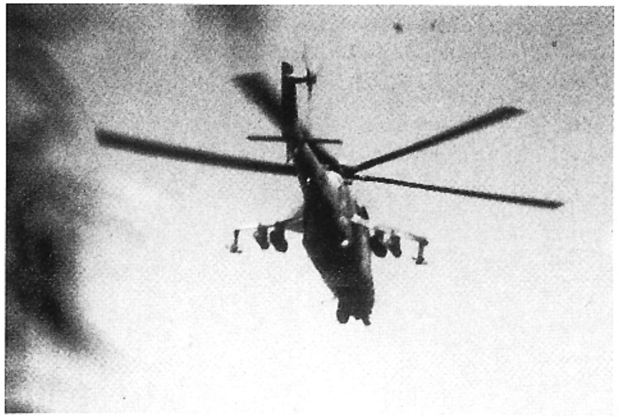
▶ A Mi-24 Hind-A of the Kabul regime Air Force in Jadji, Paktia province, January 1985. Armed with only two rather than the usual four rocket pods, it was probably acting as a command and control ship or a potential rescue platform. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)





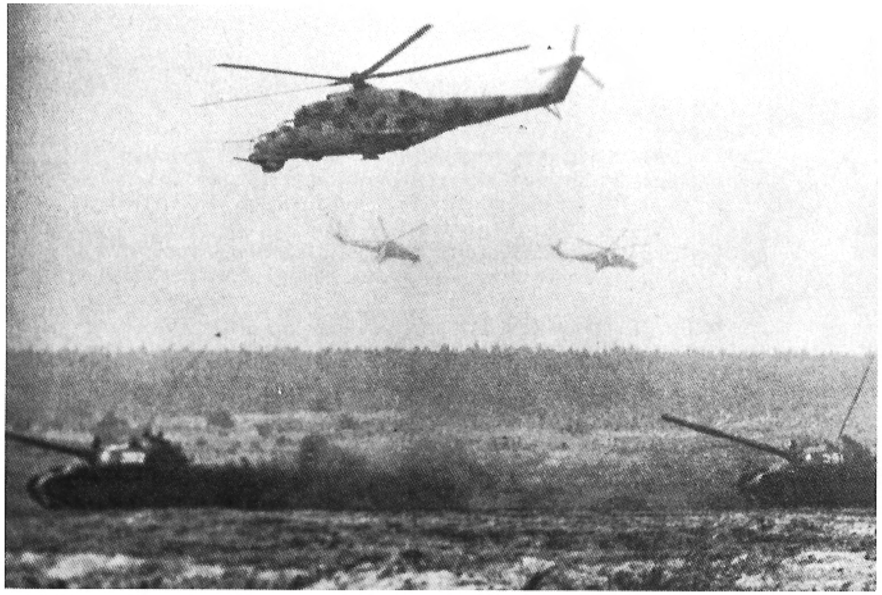
▲ Soviet Mi-17 Hip-Hs at Jalalabad airfield - a photo taken by a Kabul regime soldier with a pocket camera who later joined the Afghan resistance. (photo: National Islamic Front of Afghanistan)

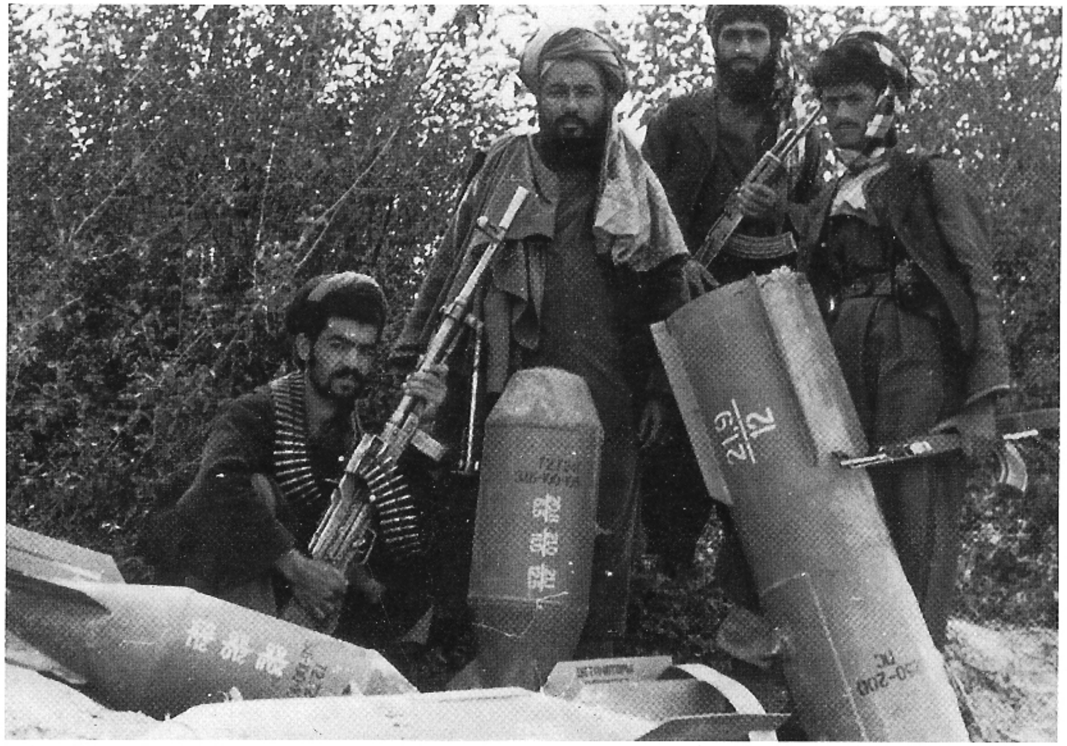
◀ Two Soviet helicopter crewmen in Afghanistan, showing a baffle of the sort fitted over the exhaust of both Hinds and Hips.



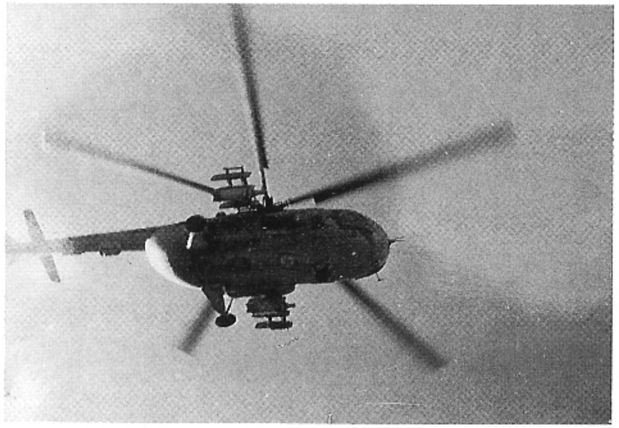
◀ A Mi-24 Hind-E makes a firing pass at low altitude. (photo: USIA)

▼ A formation of four Soviet Mi-24 Hind-Ds covers a mechanized column. The introduction of the Stinger in 1986 forced an end to such tactics. (Photo: Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan)

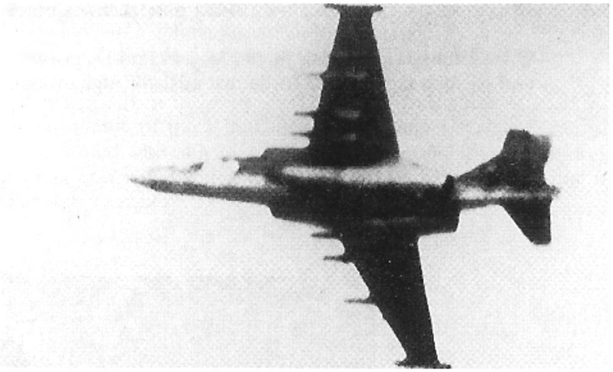


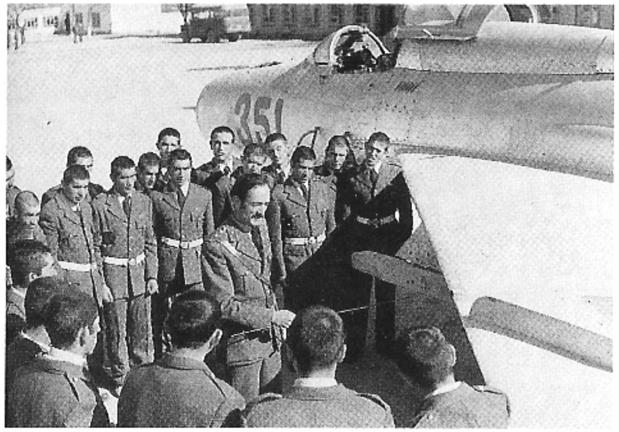


▲▶ Afghans with a collection of Soviet bombs and cluster bomb units, all painted standard light grey, showing typical markings. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



◀ Sliding out of the sun above the photographer was this Kabul regime Mi-17 Hip-H in an attack helicopter role in Jadji, Paktia province, January 1985. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)



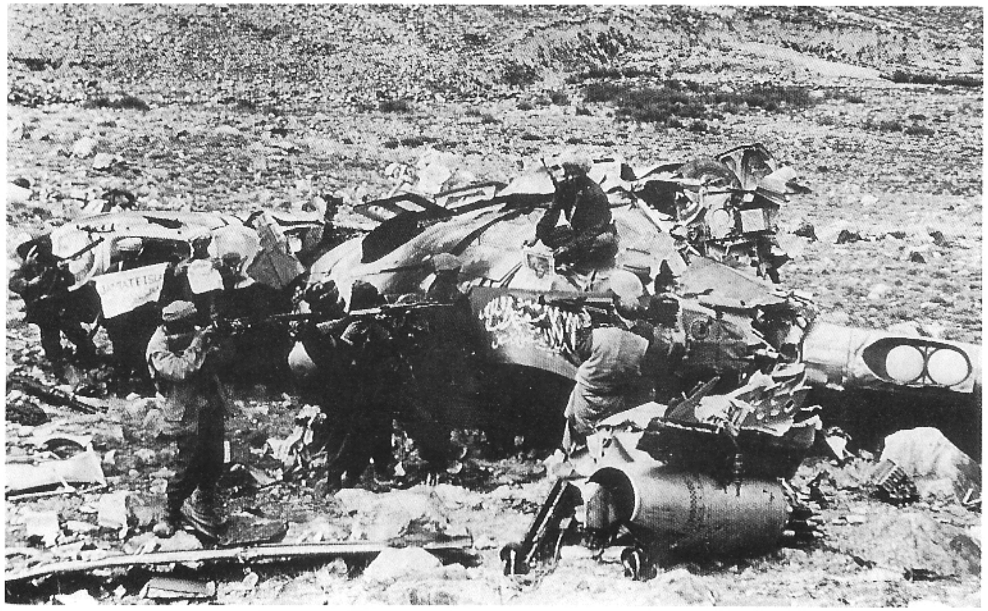


▼ A bomb impact from an Mi-24 Hind-A. Soviet helicopters have also been used for chemical warfare delivery - the one photographed attack showed Mi-8 Hip-C dropping chemical cannisters. (photo: USIA)

▲ An Su-25 Frogfoot-A pulls off the target. In standard Soviet camouflage with a large two-digit buzz number, it is probably from the 200th Grards Independent Attack Squadron. (photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

▶ Kabul regime Air Force personnel with "red 351" an all natural metal (without anti-glare panel) MIG-21 Fishbed-C.

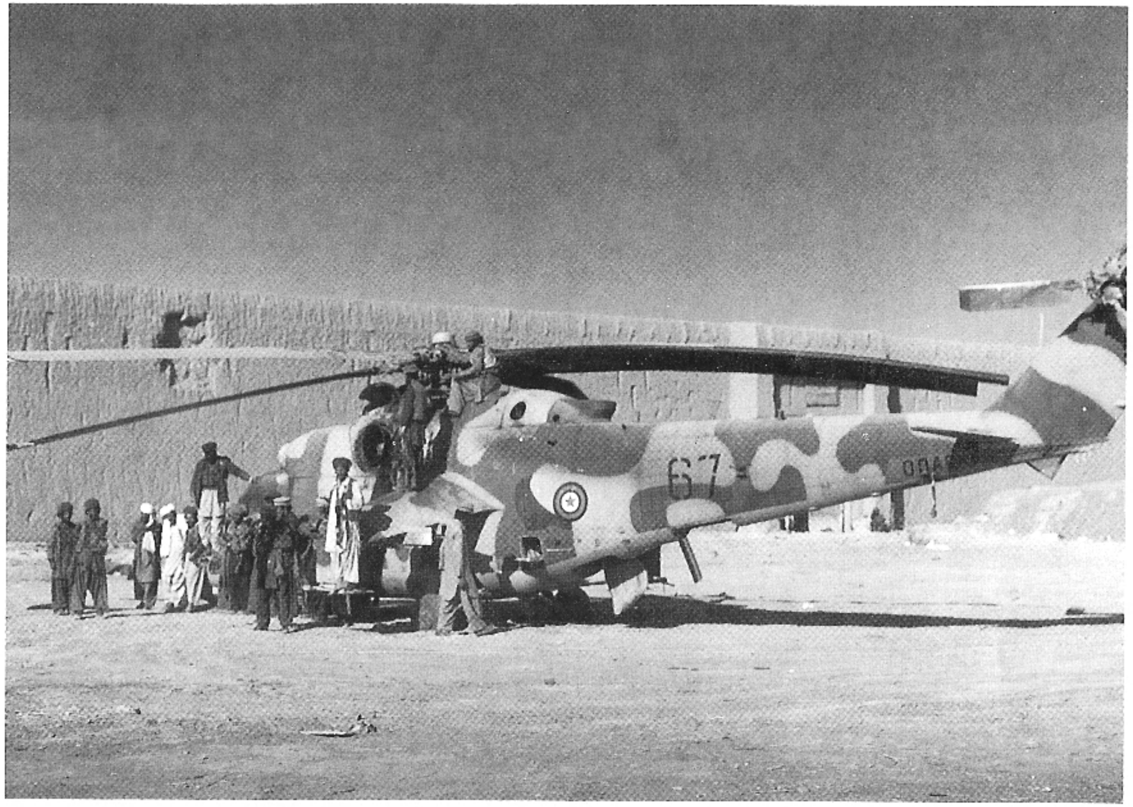
This Soviet Mi-24 Hind-D was shot down in the Panjshir Valley in 1981. (photo: Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan)

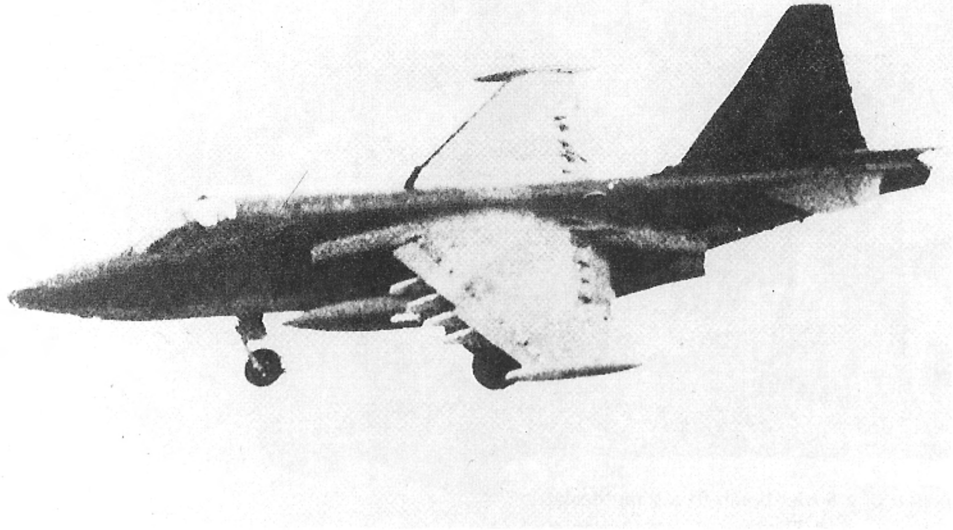


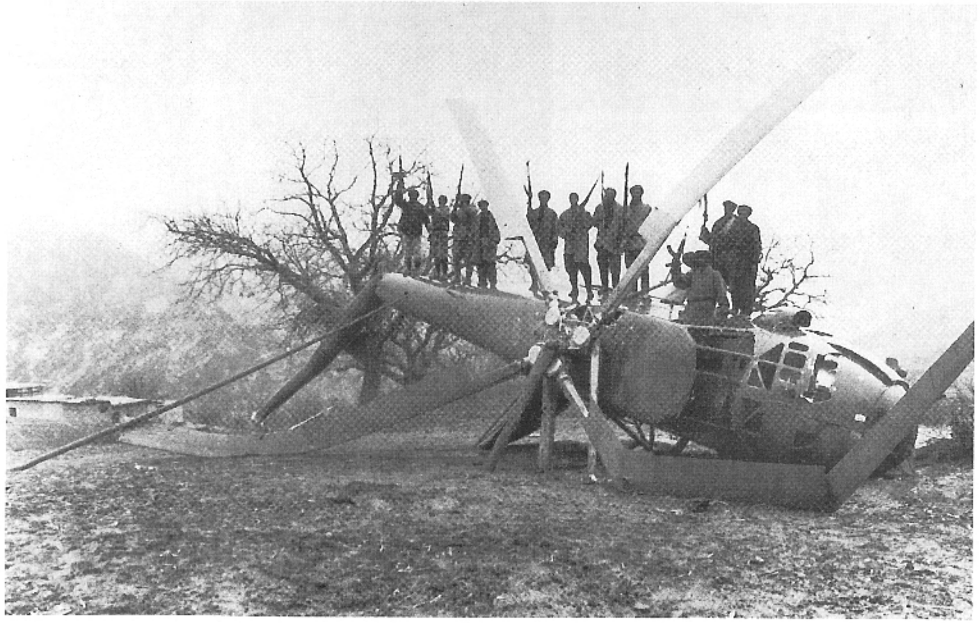
▶ This Kabul regime Mi-25 Hind-D defected to the Afghan resistance in 1988. Its camouflage colors appear to vary from the Soviet standard: the sand is lighter and the underside blue deeper. (photo: Syed Mansur Shah)

▼ Su-25 Frogfoot-A coming in to land. Two Frogfoot squadrons were deployed to Afghanistan and others would arrive to support offensives. (photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

▼▶This Mi-4 Hound of the Kabul regime Air Force was shot down in March 1979 in Nuristan. (photo: USIA)

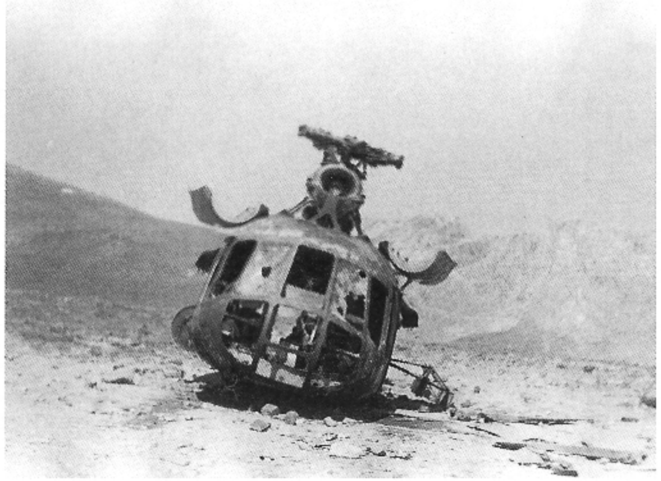


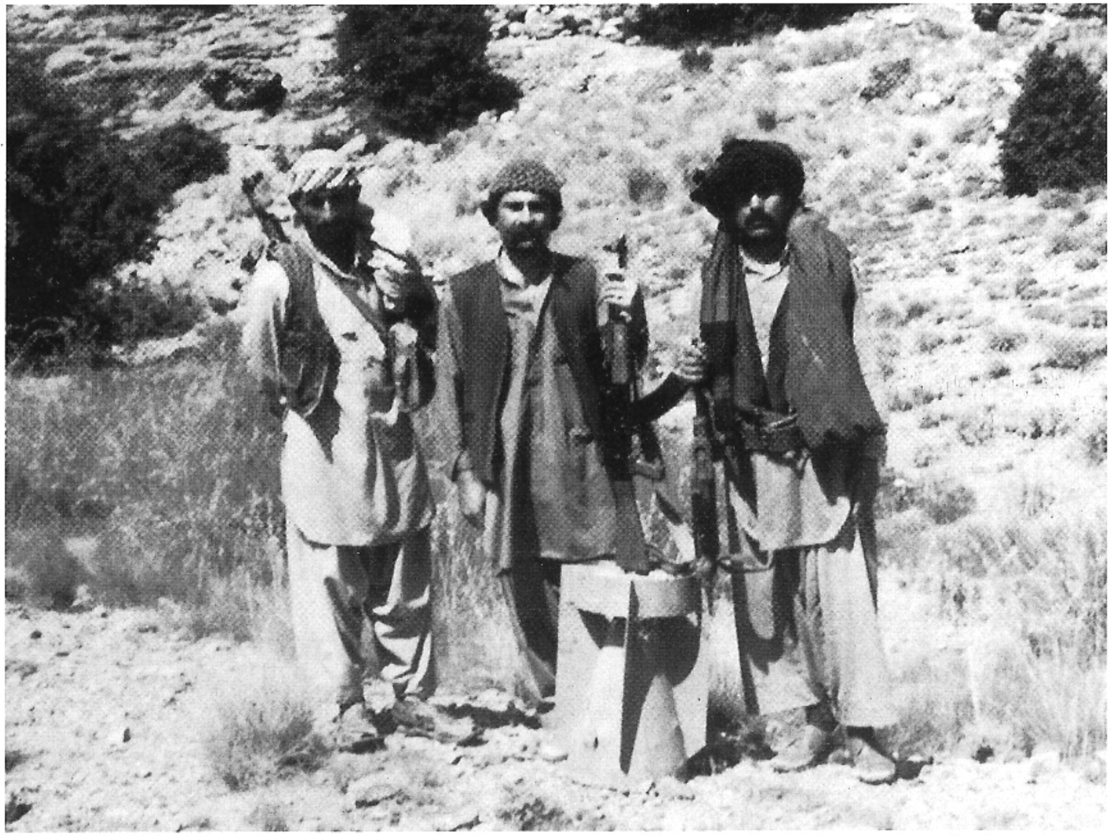




◀ Mi-24/25 Hind-D attack helicopter supporting the Soviet January, 1985 offensive into Paktia province. In addition to Swatter ATGM rails, it is armed with four 57mm rocket pods. Finished in sand-and-spinach camouflage, the photographer did not stick around to see if its was a Soviet or Kabul regime helicopter. (photo: Elizabeth T. Ashe)

▶ "Lying and left on Afghanistan's plains" is the fuselage of a shot-down Mi-8 Hip-C. Travellers inside Afghanistan soon learn to distinguish even burnt-out helicopter wrecks, as the titanium belly armor of the Hinds survive.

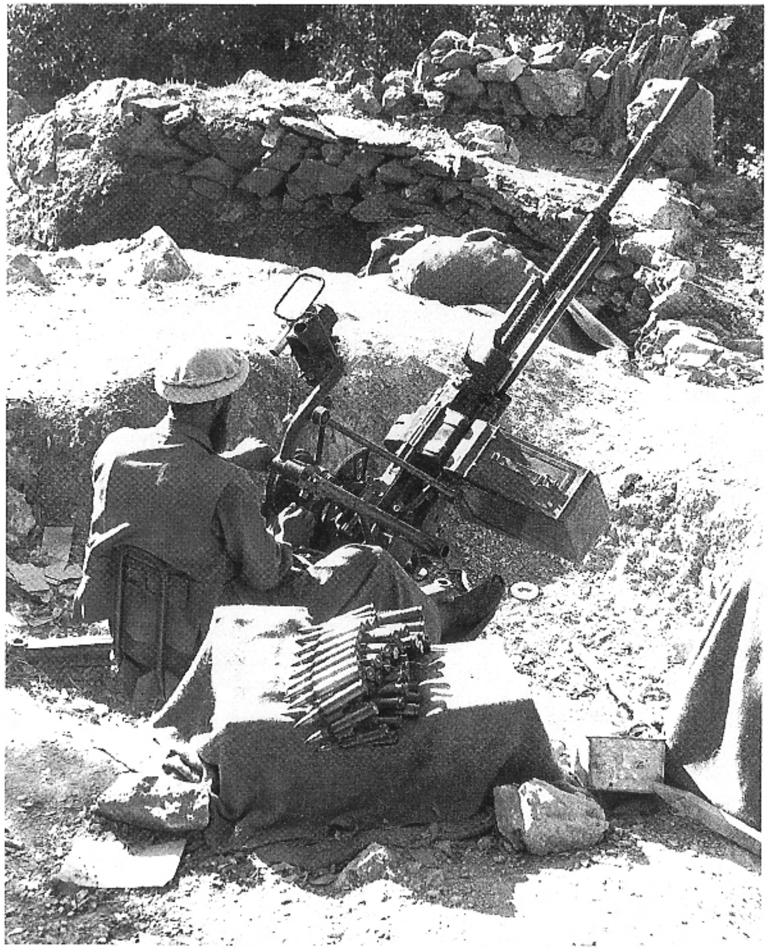




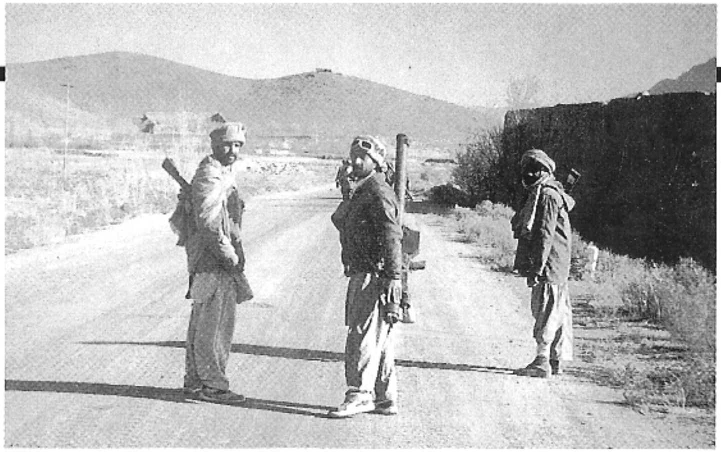
These Afghanistans are taking the grey tail section of a Soviet bomb to a scrap dealer in Pakistan. (photo: David Isby)

# AIR DEFENSE:

A "Ziqroiat" - the Soviet ZPU-1 14.5mm heavy machine gun and, shown here, the Chinese-made Type 75 version - was one of the main Afghan weapons throughout the war. (photo: David Isby)

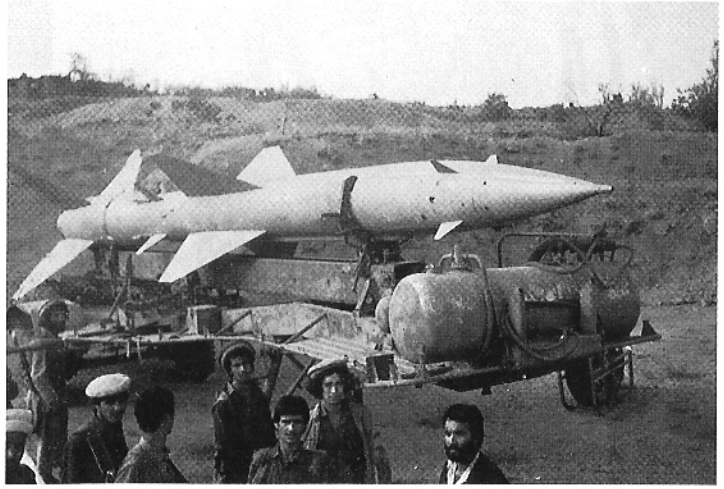


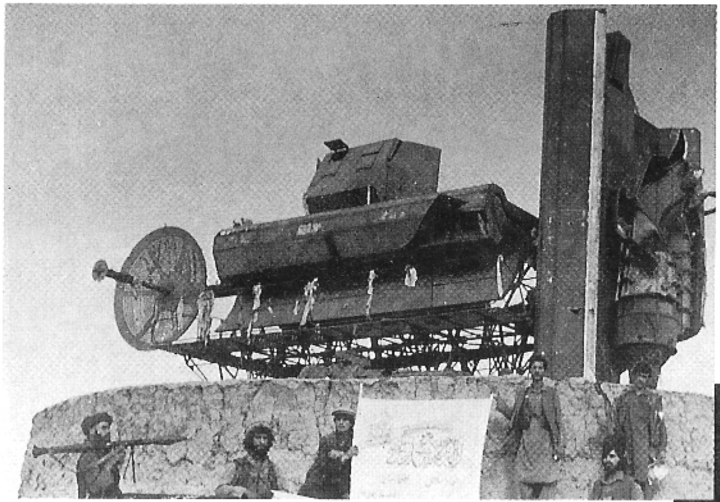
Before the introduction of the U.S.-made Stinger and the British-made Blowpipe, the Soviet-built SA-7 Grail was the most advanced SAM used by the Afghan resistance. This SA-7 team, lead by a former Kabul regime fighter pilot, was photographed in Logar province in November, 1984. (photo: Nabib Wardak)



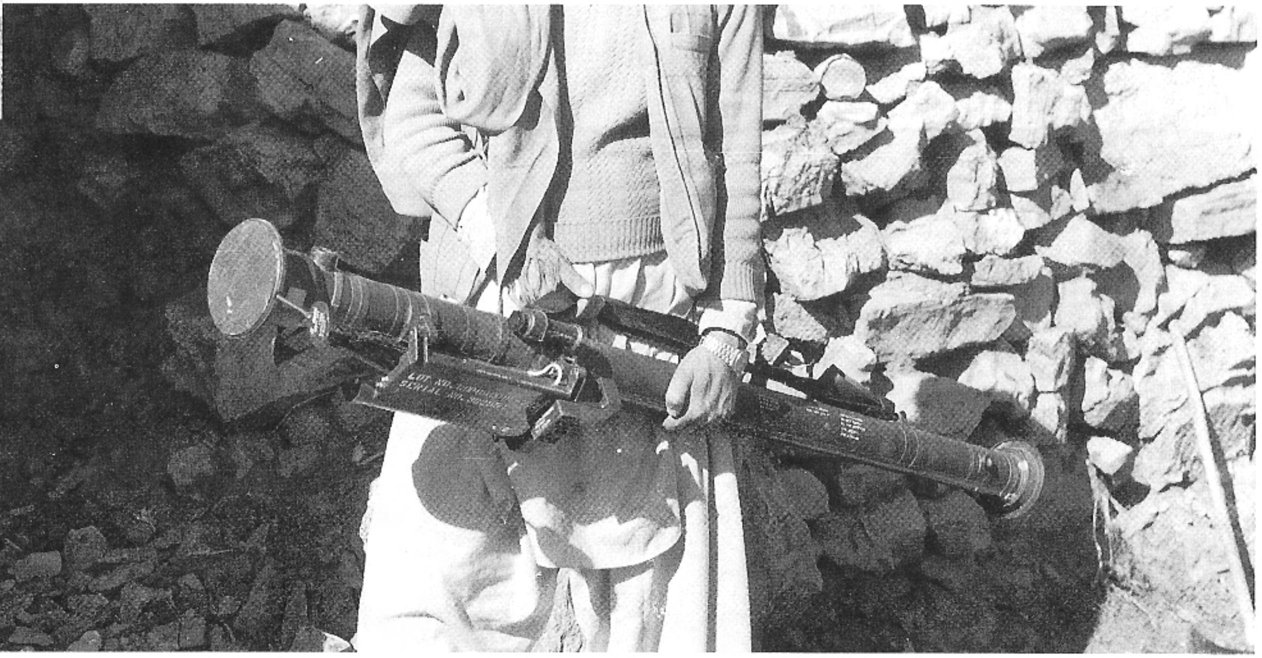
The Kabul regime had two six-launcher batteries of SA-2 Guidelines until 1988, when one was overrun by the resistance. (photo: AMRC)

A Kabul regime SA-2f Guideline SAM, captured on its trailer. (photo: AMRC)

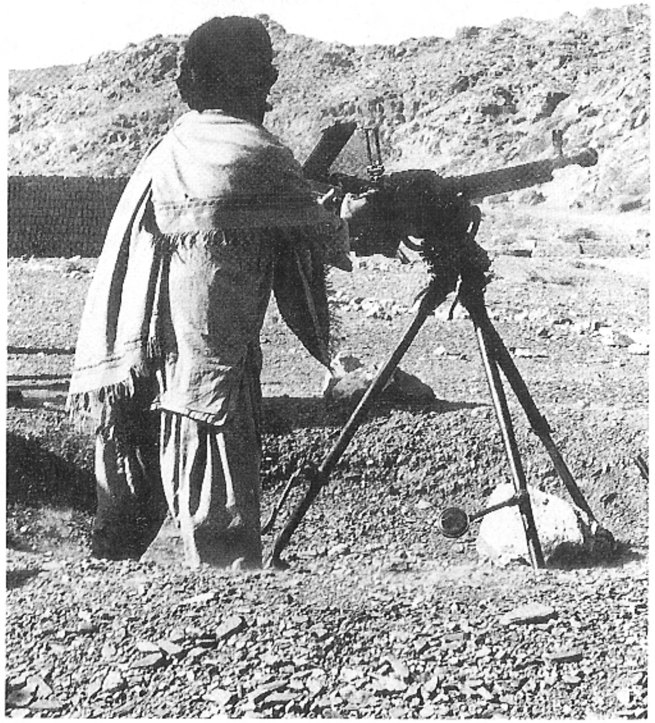




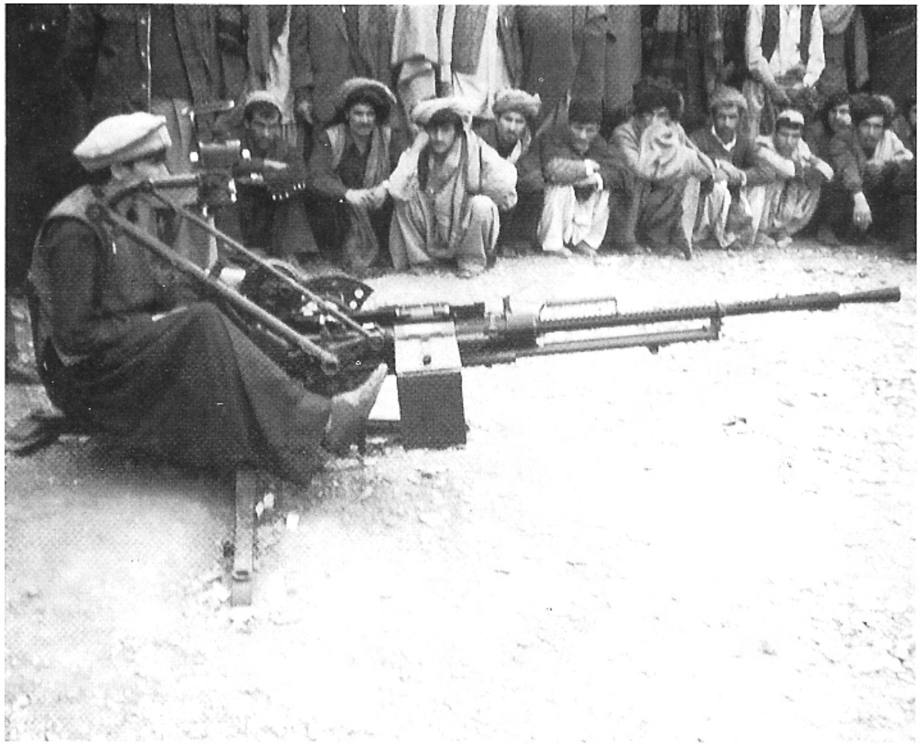
This Fan Song E radar was part of a Kabul regime SA-2 SAM site overrun by the resistance in August, 1988. The loss of this and other high-value objectives in 1988 led both the Afghans and foreign supporters to assume victory would follow in 1989. (photo: AMRC)

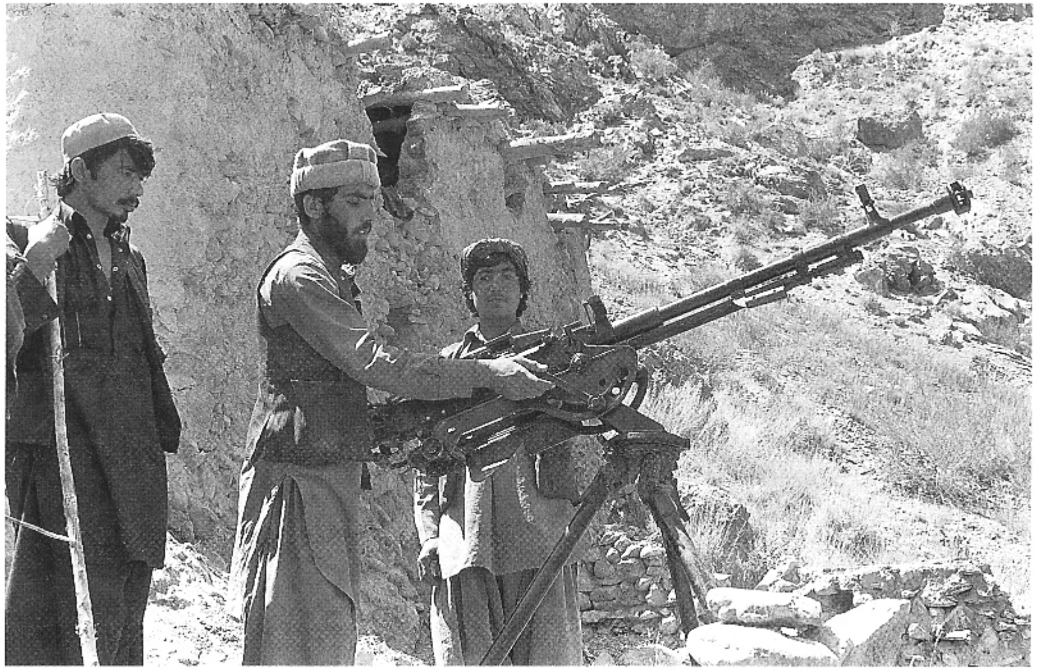


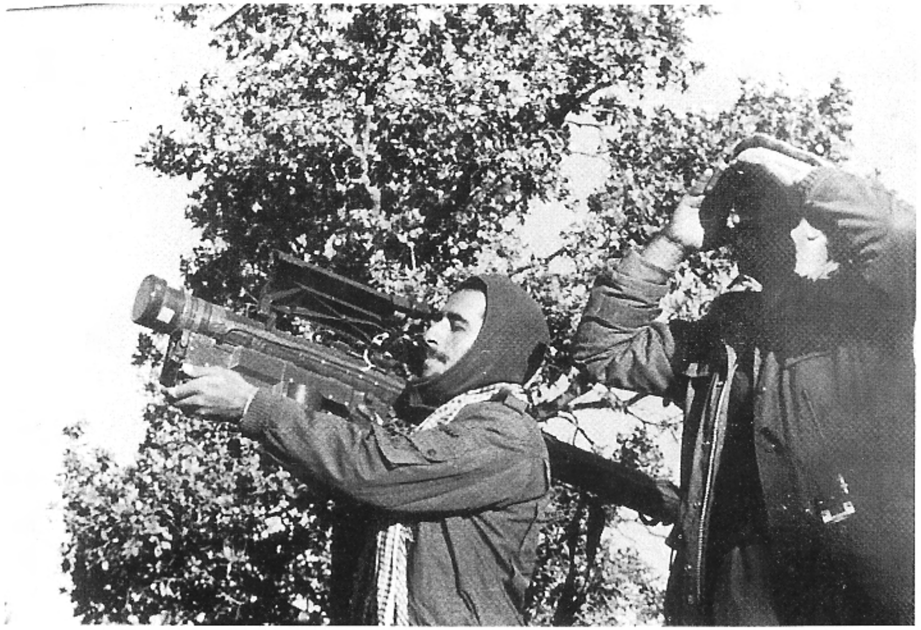
The weapon that changed the course of the war on the battlefield in 1986-7: a General Dynamics FIM-92A Stinger man-portable heat-seeking surface-to-air missile. (photo: David Isby)



The standard Afghan heavy machine gun throughout the war, both Soviet and Chinese-made versions of the Soviet-designed DShKM 12.7mm machine gun, shown here in a hasty gunpit, were used. (photo: David Isby)



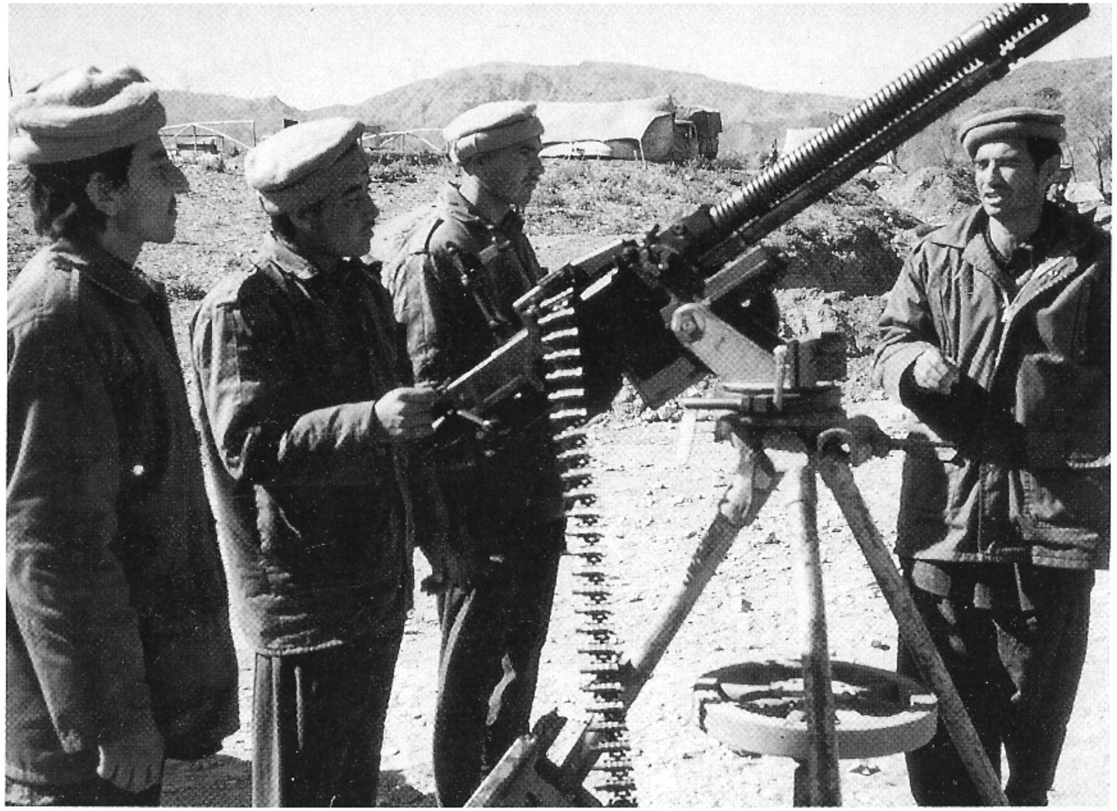




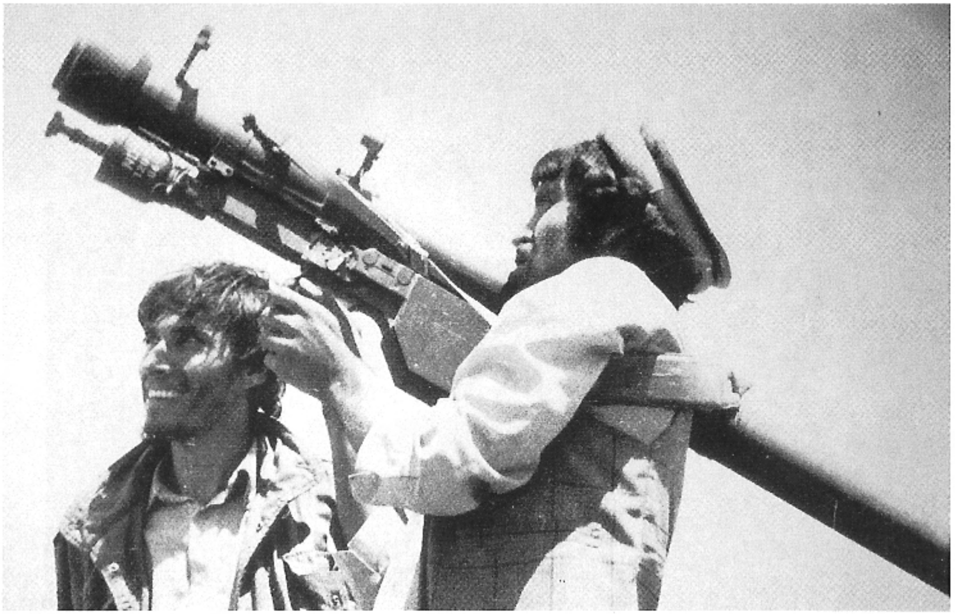
◀ An Afghan Stinger team of the National Islamic Front of Afghan in action in Paktia province in 1987. The gunner, a former officer in the Kabul regime army, scored several kills. (photo: National Islamic Front of Afghanistan)

▲◀ This Chinese-made Type 75-1 "Ziqroiat" is a lighter version of the Soviet-designed ZGU-1. (photo: David Isby)

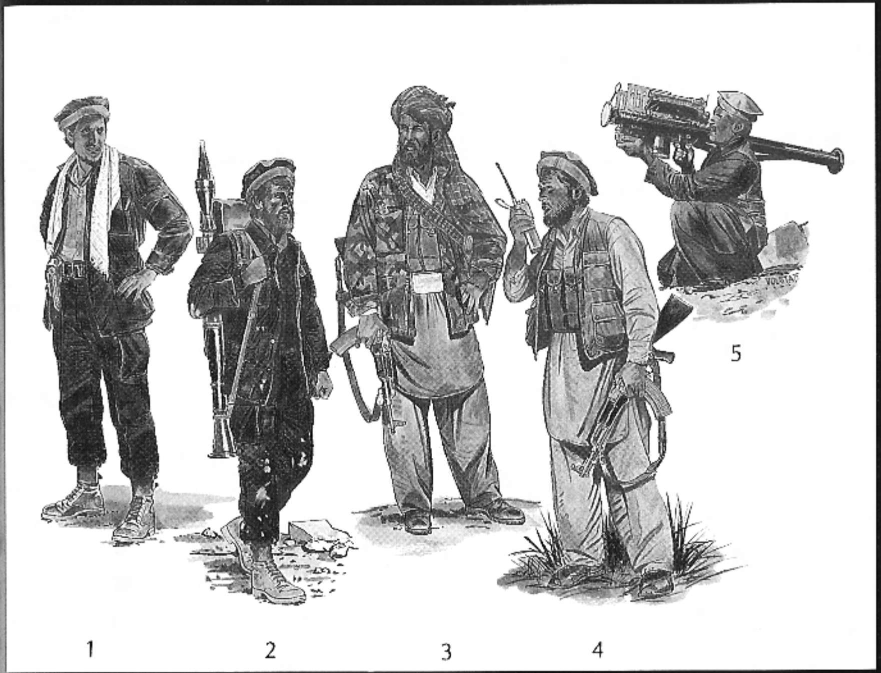
▲ Afghan 12.7mm DShKM heavy machine gun, surrounded by a low sangar, in a bombed-out village in western Afghanistan. (photo: Massoud Khalili)



Wearing locally-made field jackets modeled on the U.S. M65 over grey pajamas is this unusually professional-looking 12.7mm DShKM HMG crew. (photo: David Isby)



Afghan resistance SA-7 Grail SAM crew. The Battery, under the muzzle, is one of the weak points of the basic design.



## PLATE A

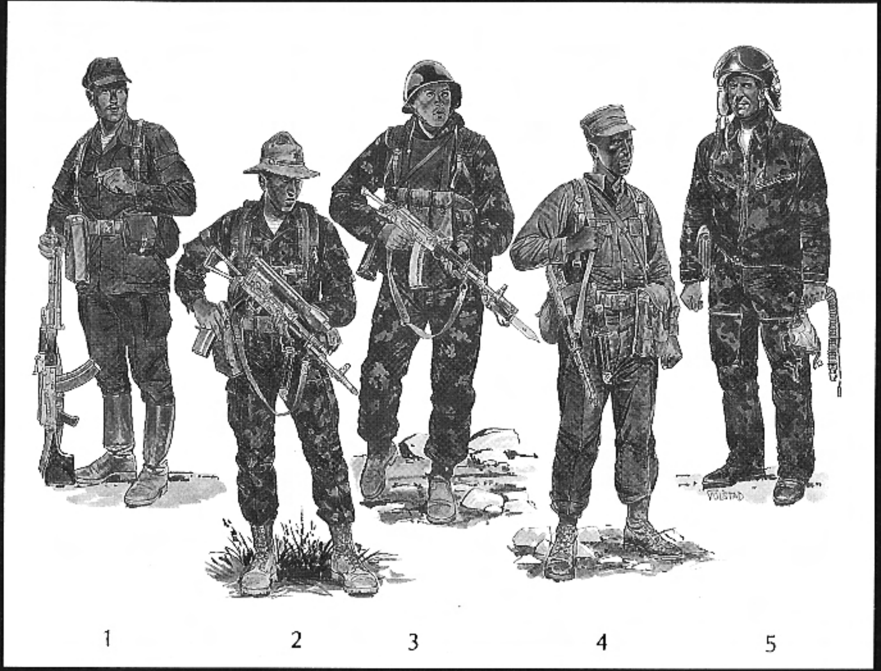
1. AHMAD SHAH MASSOUD, CHIEF, SUPERVISORY COUNCIL OF THE NORTH.
Ahmad Shah Massoud is the most important commander of the mujahideen. Starting in his native Panjshir valley, his influence has spread throughout the north of Afghanistan, setting up the Supervisory Council of the North, which by 1989-90 was the most significant fighting force of the mujahideen. His uniform - light colored flat cap, Soviet-style jacket and trousers, western-style shirt rather than Afghan-style pajamas, are indicative of the sort of order he has tried to impose on his forces.

2. TROOPER, CENTRAL FORCES, SUPERVISORY COUNCIL OF THE NORTH, 1988-9
The nearest thing to regular forces used by the mujahideen. Since the early 1980s, Massoud has realized that a cadre of full-time veteran guerrillas is vital for effective tactics. By 1988, the Central Forces had grown to about 1,500 men and had been used to take a number of Kabul regime garrisons. Since then, its members have been used as officiers and NCOs of a greatly expanded fighting force Massoud has been trying to put together in the 1988-90 period. Equipped much the same as Massoud, he is armed with an RPG-7, the standard mujahideen anti-tank weapon.

3. MOHAMMED AMIN WARDAK, COMMANDER, WARDAK PROVINCE, 1988
Amin Wardak's work has been similar to Massoud, stressing effective building of a both civil and guerrilla infrastructure. His focus has been local, aimed at his own part of Wardak province, and he has thus been unable to deploy large forces. Armed with a standard 7.62mm Kalashnikov and a pistol, he wears a U.S. Army woodland pattern camouflage field jacket and a black turban with a long, trailing edge. In much of Afghanistan, Syeds - Afghans who are descended from the family of the Prophet Mohammed - will also wear such turbans.

4. AFGHAN GUERRILLA, LOGAR PROVINCE, 1988.
Typical late-war Afghan guerrilla, he is equipped with a radio - an example of the improved technology that has flowed to the mujahideen - and is armed with a 7.62mm Kalashnikov. He wears a chest bandolier or a Chinese-style chest pack for ammunition. He still wears traditional *chapati* sandals in preference to Pakistani-made boots, which can be crippling. The vest is a local version of a western-style assault vest. He wears the standard mujahideen of the Pathans who live south of the Hindu Kush, pajamas, flat hat, light (if any) field equipment.

5. STINGER GUNNER, 1986-90
The U.S.-made General Dynamics Stinger man-portable heat-seeking surface-to-air missile was the single most important weapons received by the mujahideen during the war. It greatly reduced the effectiveness of the Soviet helicopters and fighter-bombers that had dominated the sky over Afghanistan. The Stinger is a self-contained stand-alone-system - apparent as the gunner has no additional equipment. He is a Pathan - only a limited number of Stingers made it to the Tadjiks, Uzdeks, and Turkmen north of the Hindu Kush. .



## PLATE B

1. SOVIET PARATROOPER, 1986-89

   Wearing a standard late-war uniform, with the two-piece khaki battledress and striped t-shirt favored by elite units in the late war period, this trooper wears the old-style high boots and the newer combat cap, worn with or without red star capbadge. He is armed with a 5.45mm RPK-74 light machinegun, the standard Soviet squad automatic weapon. He is lightly equipped,but for extended dismounted operations could carry a large pack.

2. SOVIET PARATROOPER, 1986-89

   Showng an alternative uniform, this is the two-piece new camouflage pattern that was first seen in 1986, but became more common by 1988. Note that no rank or arms or service shoulder boards are worn in Afghanistan. The bush hat has been worn by the Soviet military in Afghanistan throughout the war. He is armed with a folding stock 5.45mm AKS-74 assault rifle with an image-intensifier passive sight. The boots are the short, laced types used in the late war period.

3. SOVIET MOTORIZED RIFLE TROOPER, 1986-89

   This shows a motorized rifle trooper going into close combat. He wears the older Soviet camouflage pattern KLMK overalls with hood worn down, but in the two-piece version common in the late war period. He wears standard Soviet body armor (although some of the pattern were seen in the last years of the war) and a chest pack for magazines- both standard items of equipment that either of the two paratroopers might use as well. His steel helmet is painted with a camouflage pattern. Some motorized rifle units - apparently those that had specialized air assault training - also wore paratrooper-style striped t-shirts. He is armed with a folding-stock AKS-74 5.45mm assault rifle. He carries a folded RPG-18 light anti-tank weapon, often used against Afghan fighting positions. RPO-A flame rockets were often carried in place of the RPG-18s.

4. KABUL REGIME INFANTRY, 1978-90.

   In action, in this uniform, throughout the war, the Kabul regime's infantry has often proven unreliable, but they are Afghans and no cowards, and will often fight long and hard. The 7.62mm AK-47, AKM, and AKMS are still standard infantry weapons. This is the summer field uniform. The winter uniform is similar, although in a darker Khaki. One-piece KLMK overalls are often worn in action. In 1988-90, the Kabul regime acquitred a great many Soviet items of equipment, both major weapons systems and uniform and equipment items.

5. SOVIET FIGHTER-BOMBER PILOT, 1986-90.

   The Soviets were providing airstrikes into Afghanistan before they committed their combat troops and there is evidence they have continued to do so despite the withdrawal.This pilot is equipped with a version of the standard V-VS off-season flight suit, but printed in the new-pattern camouflage. He wears an old-style ZSh-3 flight helmet worn over an even older ShZ-61 communications helmet, which, in turn, is worn over a "surgical" style skullcap to prevent sweat dripping into the eyes. He will be armed a Makarov 9mm PM pistol as a personnal weapon, on a waist holster.

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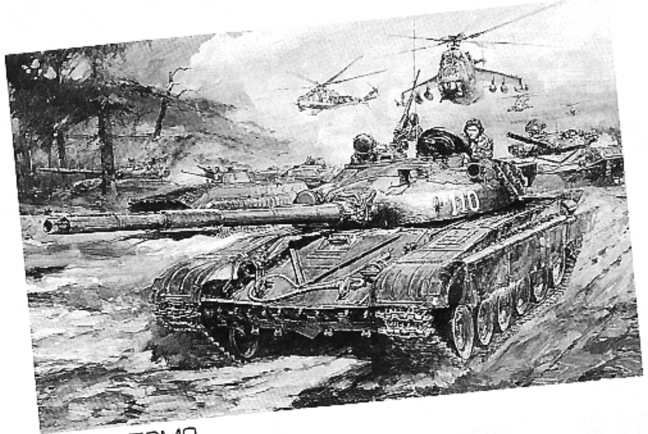
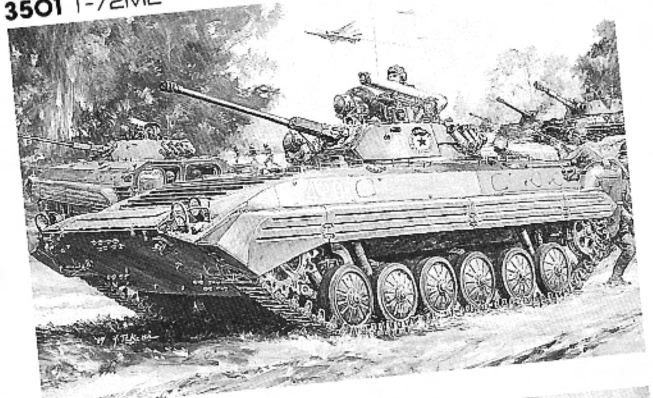


**3501** T-72M2



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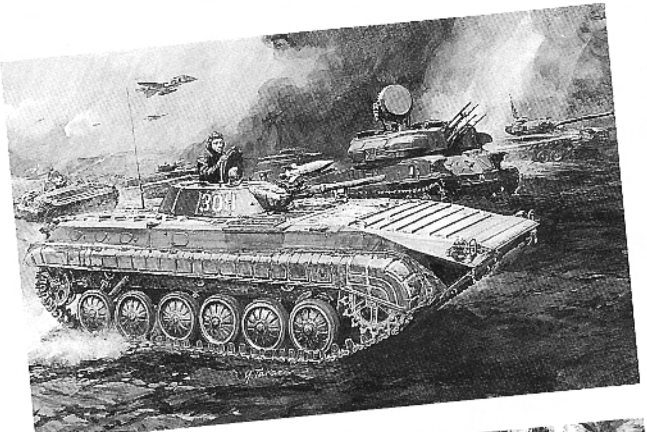

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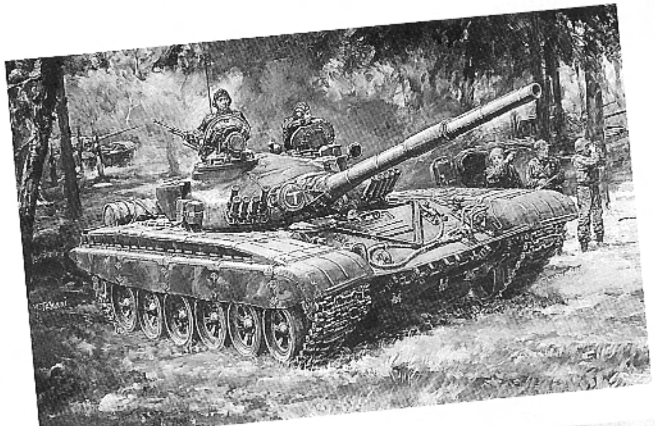

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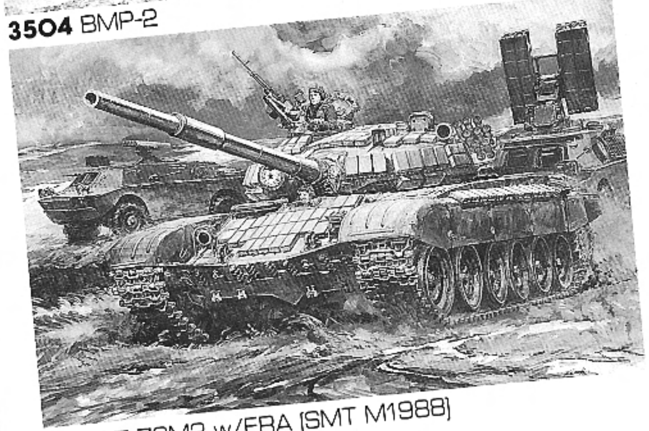

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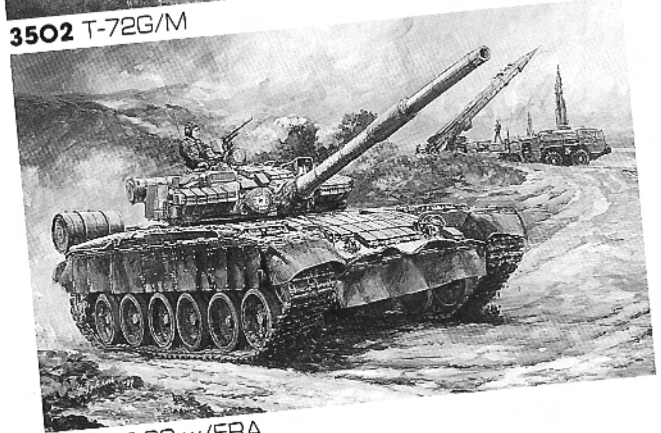

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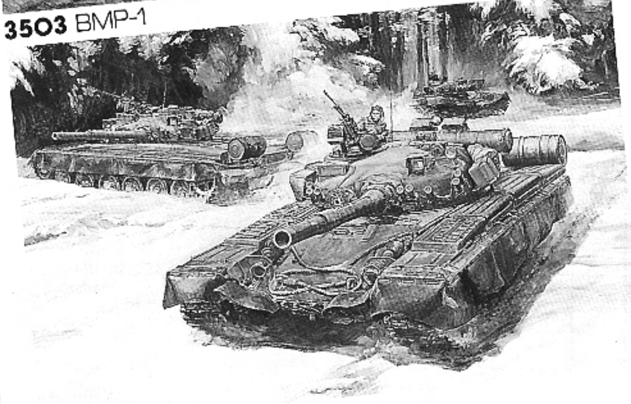

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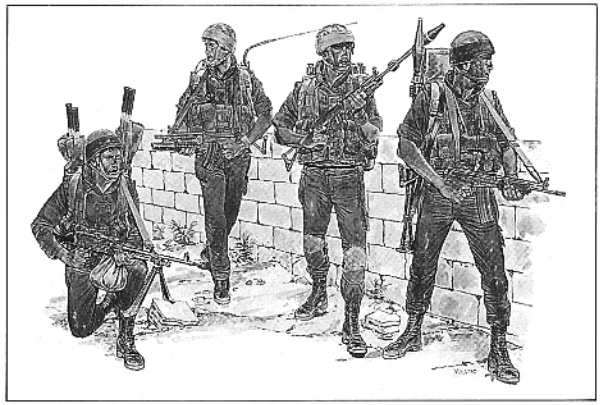

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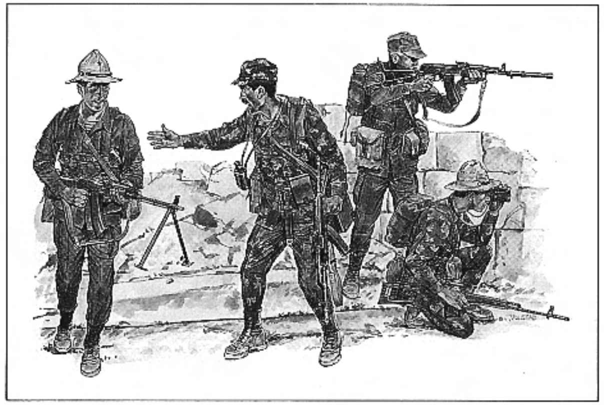

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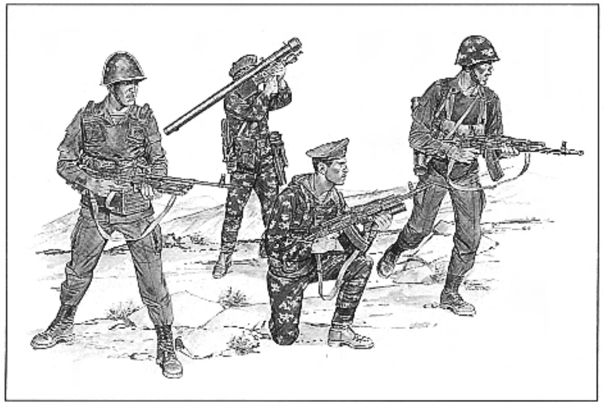

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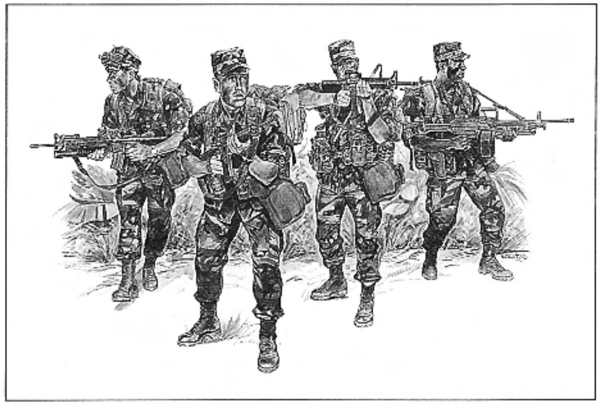

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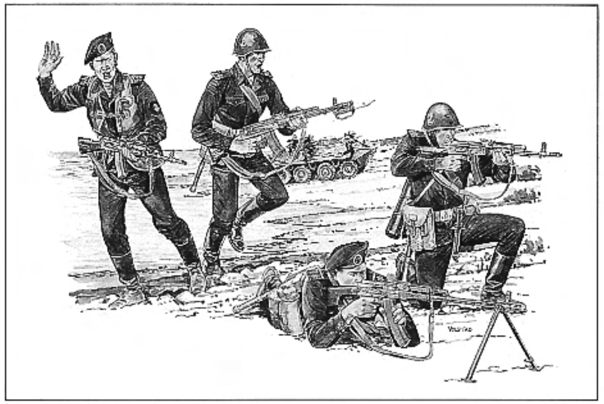

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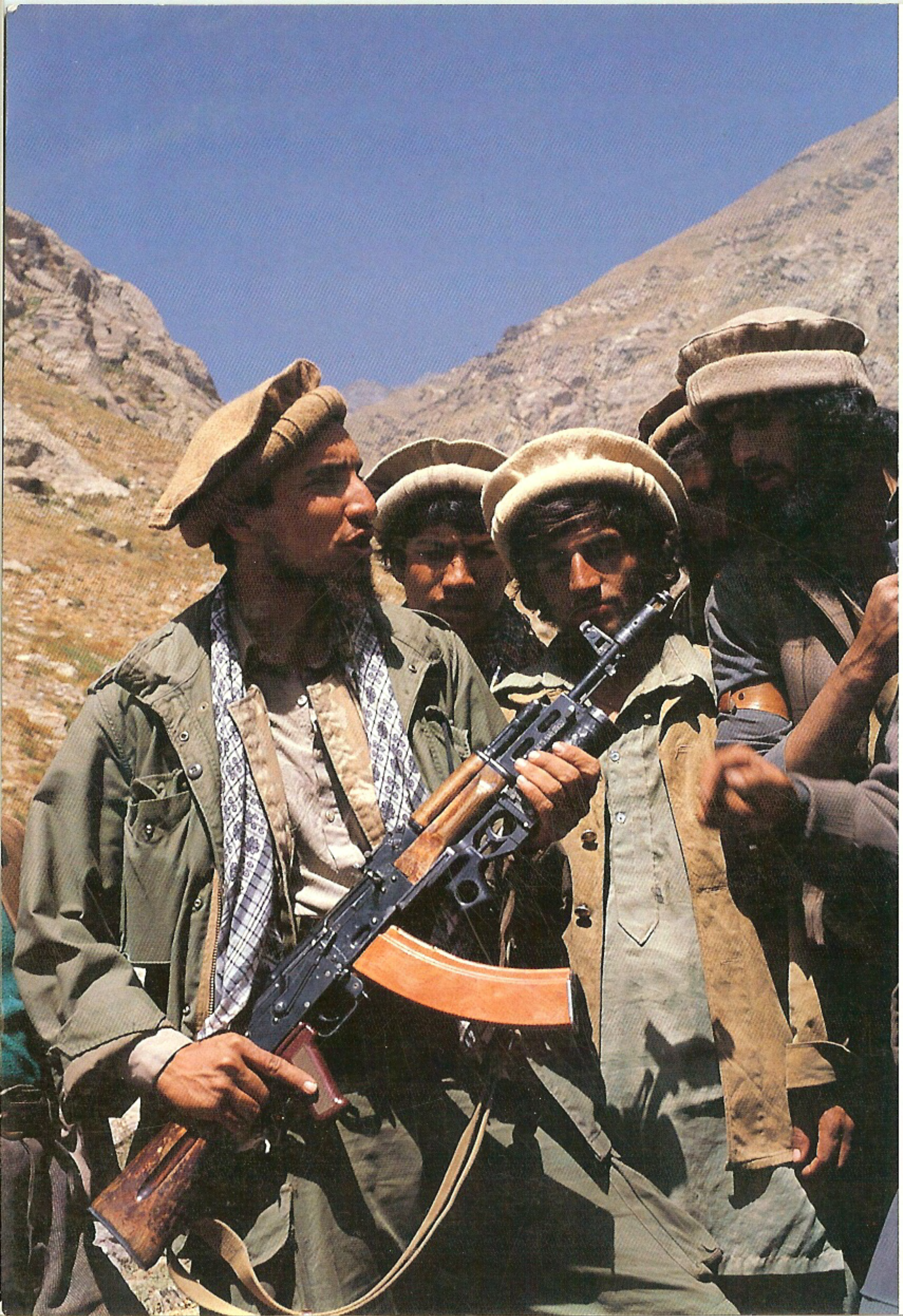

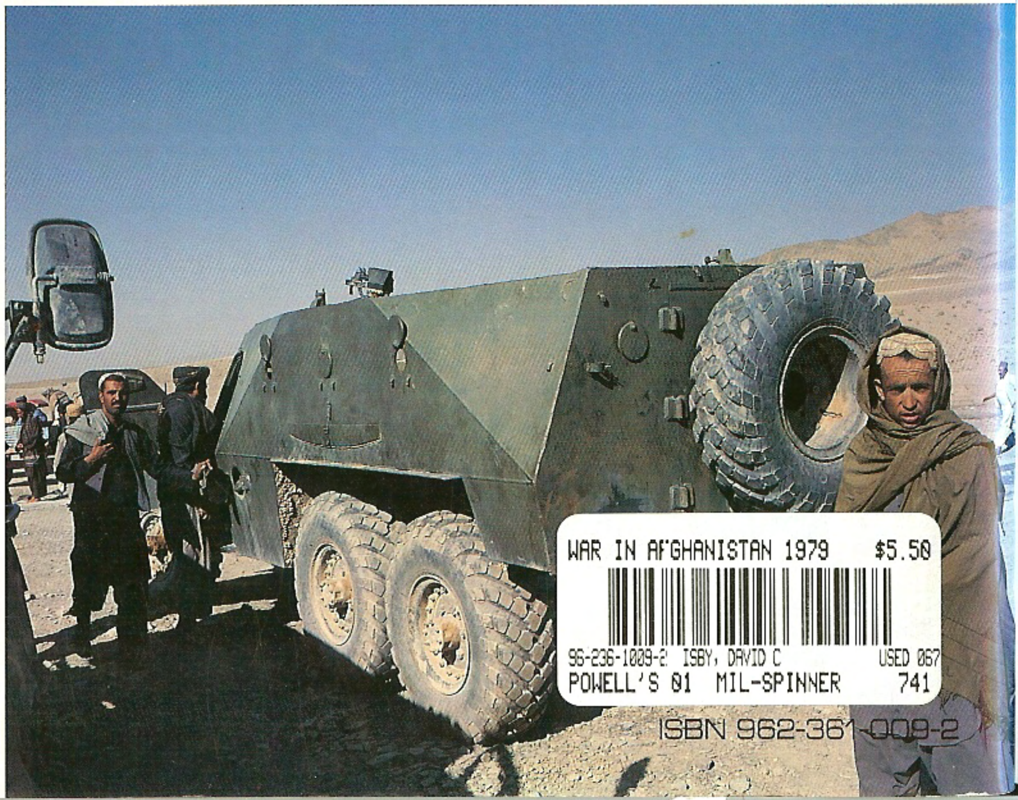

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